Witchcraft Works
5
Ryu Mizunagi

Presented by Ryu Mizunagi

Witchcraft Works

vol. 5

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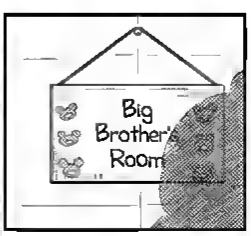
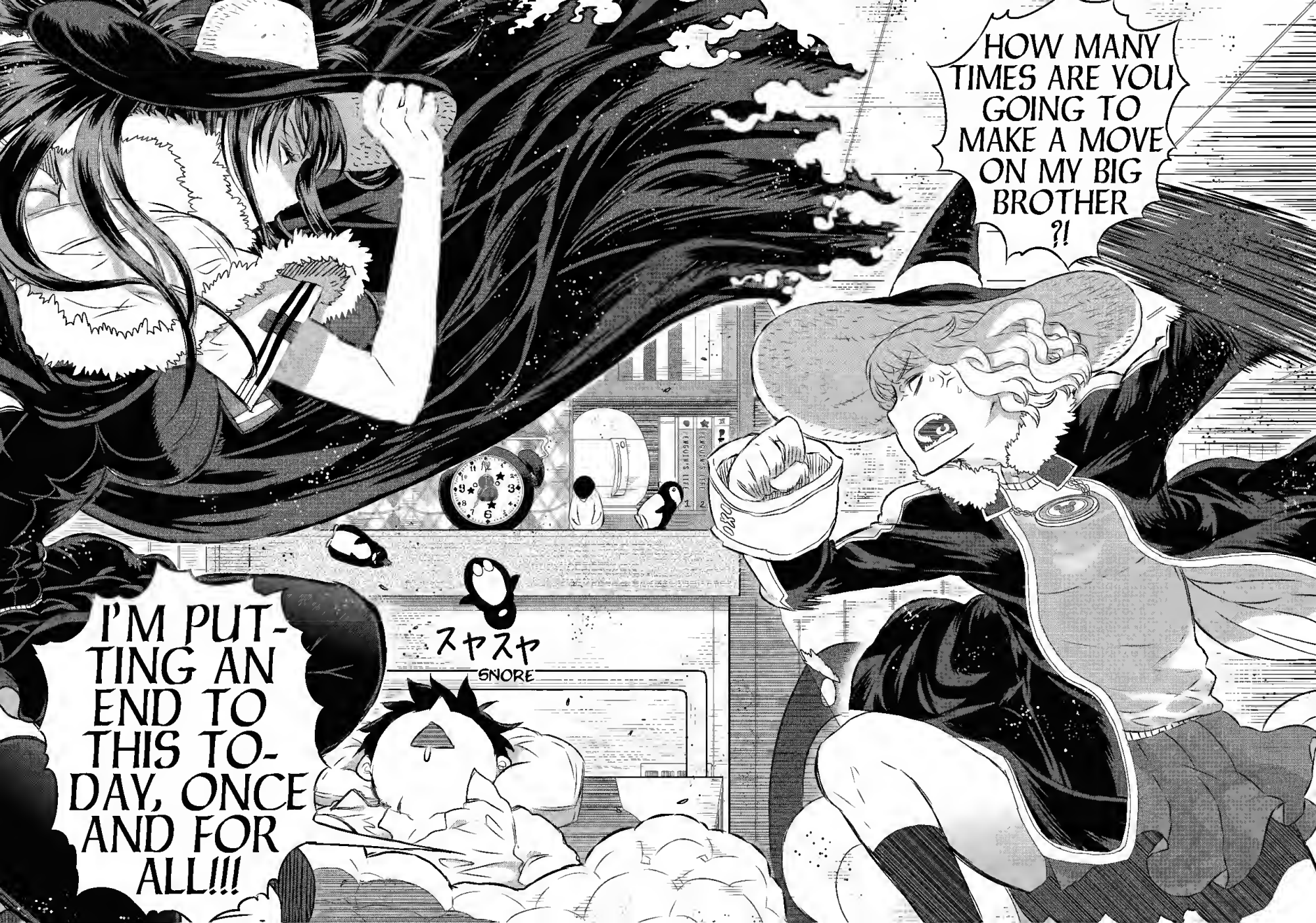
VERTICAL COMICS

I took it out of your New Year's gift money. You're a boy, Honoka, so you need to lead Ayaka...
Really? Isn't this a lot?
I'm giving you this money, so make sure you two buy everything you need.
Got it?

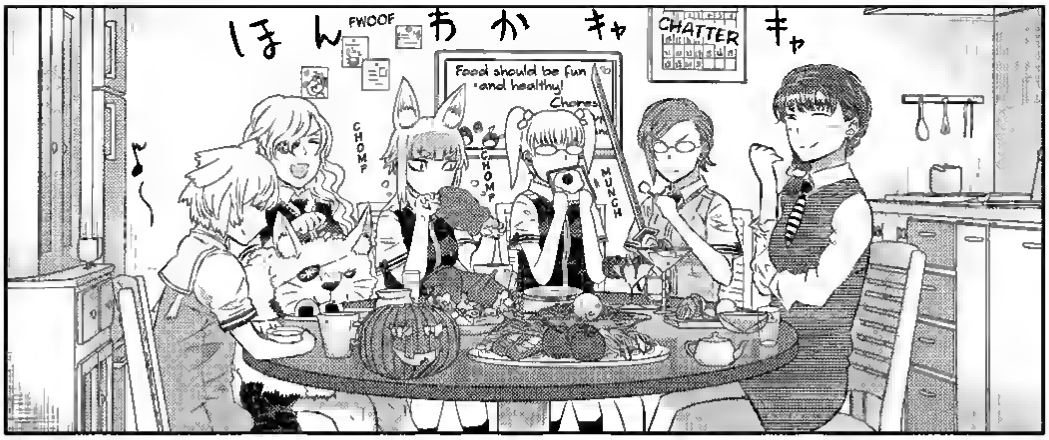
CHAPTER 17 Takamiya and the Witch of the End

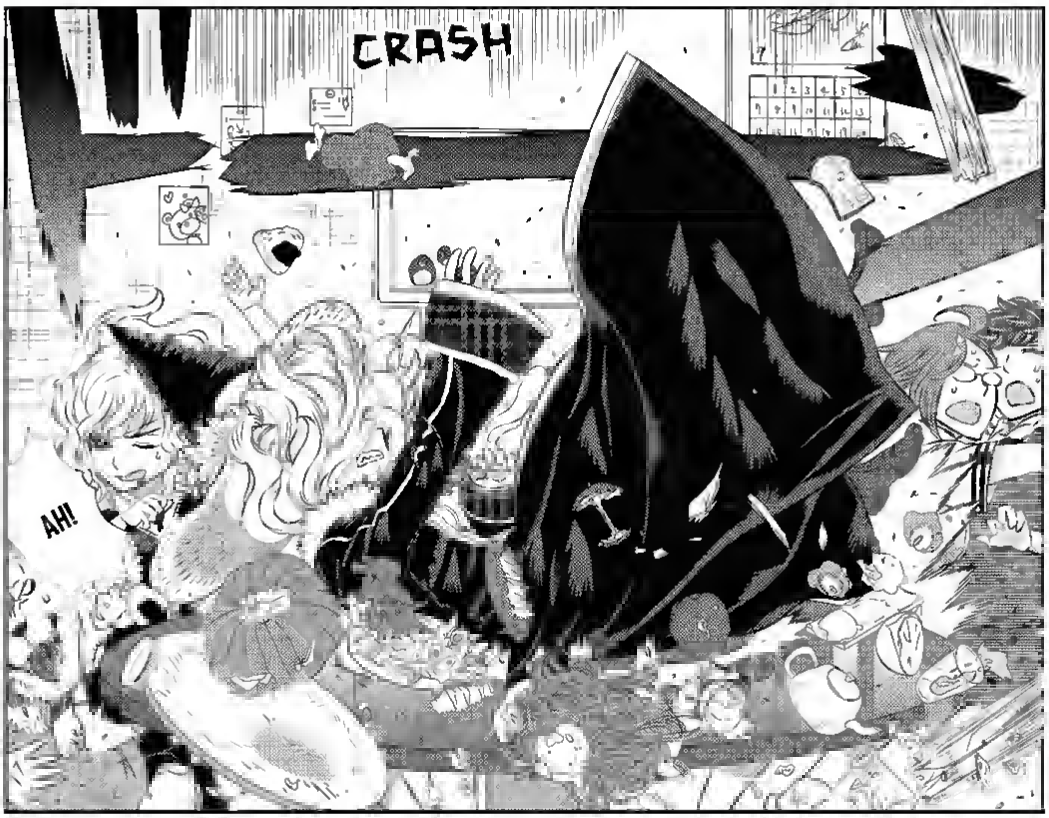


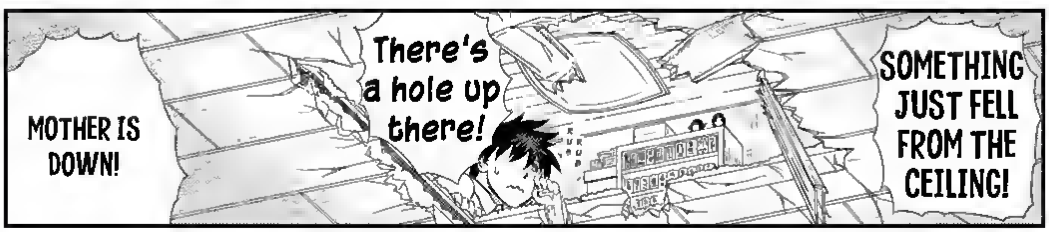

I'M PUT-TING AN END TO THIS TO-DAY, ONCE AND FOR ALL!!!
スヤスヤ
SNORE
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE A MOVE ON MY BIG BROTHER ?!

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE A MOVE ON MY BIG BROTHER ?!

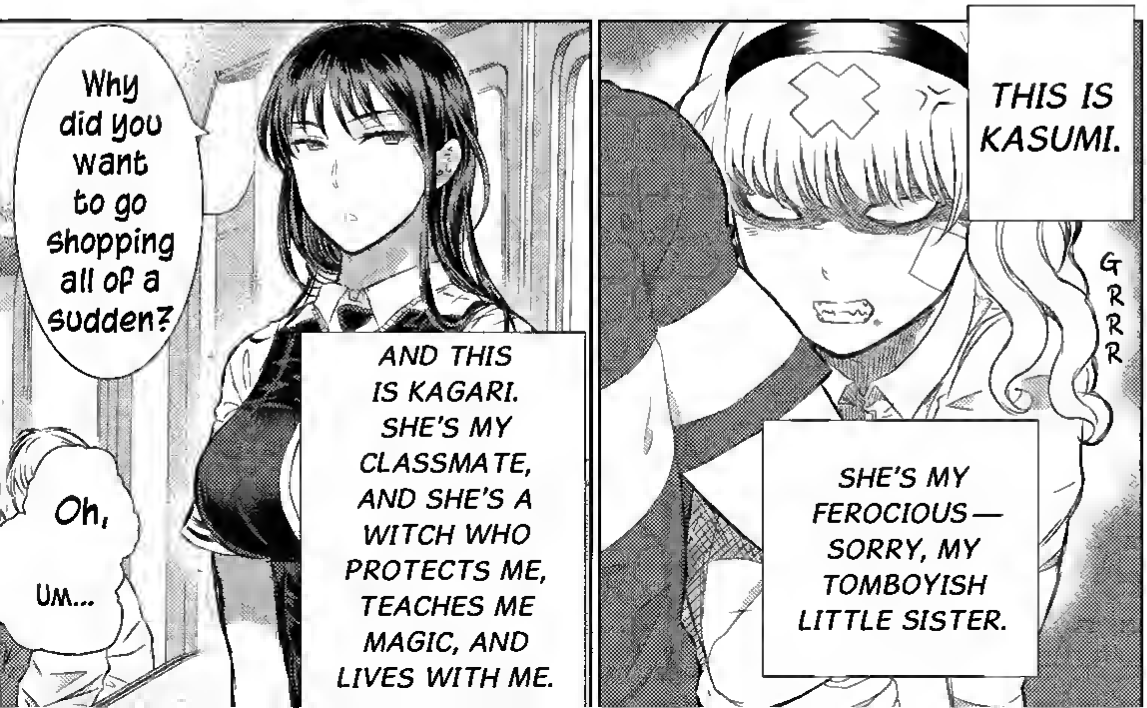
I'M PUT-
TING AN
END TO
THIS TO-
DAY, ONCE
AND FOR
ALL!!!
スヤスヤ
SNORE


ほん
FWOOF
わ か キャ
CHATTER
キャ
Food should be fun and healthy!
Cheese
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
NUNCH

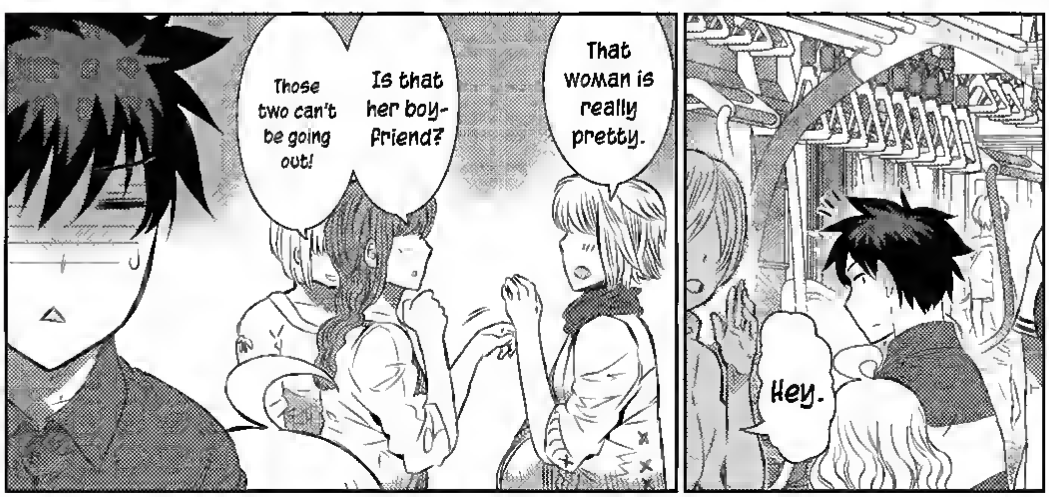

CRASH
AH!


MOTHER IS DOWN!
There's a hole up there!
SOMETHING JUST FELL FROM THE CEILING!

FATTY
AMEN
corn WHY?
ade in America!
own special
pecial domestic
and flavored oil
killed licensed
e work hard at
our THEATERS
to make our
POPCORN delicious!
MY NAME IS HONOKA TAKA-MIYA.
KA-KLANK
カ"タン
ゴトン
KA-KLUNK
(IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT) I'M A WIZARD IN TRAINING, SO I'M LIVING AN UNUSUAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LIFE.

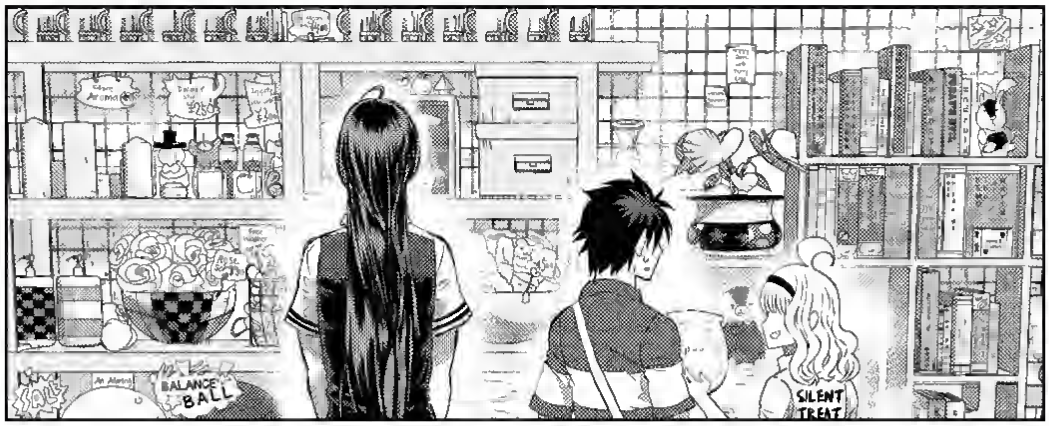

Why did you want to go shopping all of a sudden?
Oh, um...
AND THIS IS KAGARI. SHE'S MY CLASSMATE, AND SHE'S A WITCH WHO PROTECTS ME, TEACHES ME MAGIC, AND LIVES WITH ME.
THIS IS KASUMI.
GRRR
SHE'S MY FEROCIOUS— SORRY, MY TOMBOYISH LITTLE SISTER.

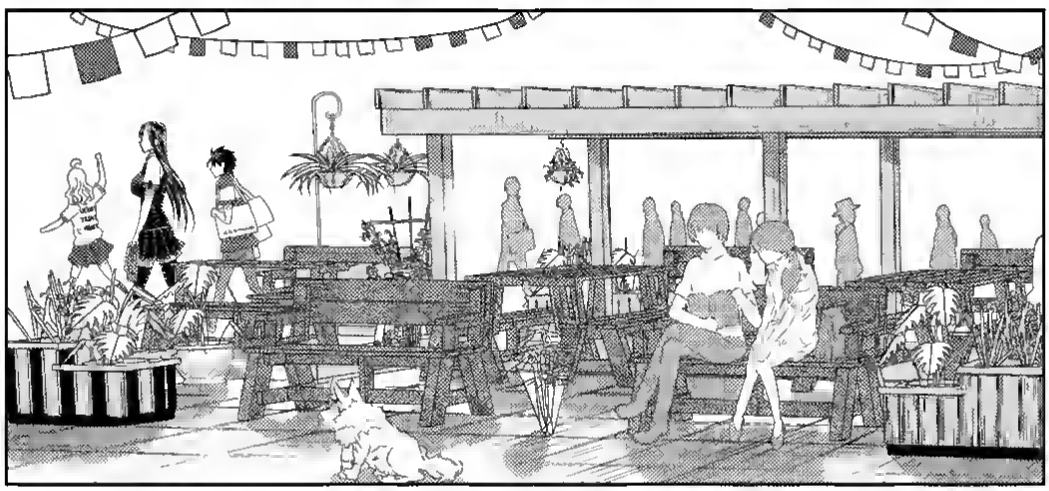
Well, you know. Your place was completely demolished,
and most of your stuff burned down with it.
So I figured we'd go to the mall by the station
and get you a new set of clothes and daily necessities.
KA-KLUK
KA-KLUK
NEXT
STOP


That woman is really pretty.
Is that her boy-friend?
Those two can't be going out!
Hey.

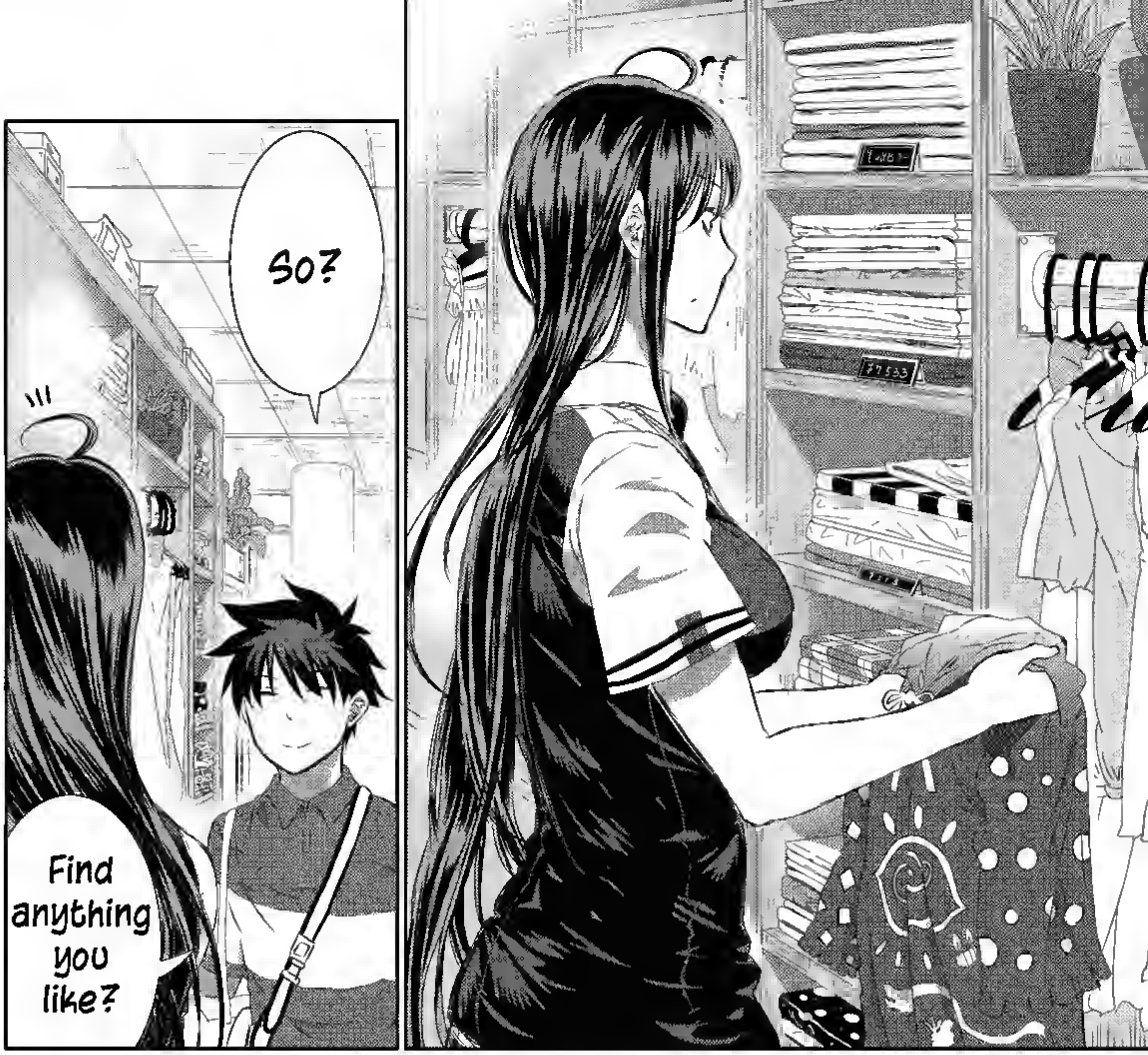
KAGARI STANDS OUT, NO MATTER WHERE SHE GOES...
ゴトン
KA-KLUNK
I'VE GROWN USED TO HEARING THAT KIND OF CONVER-SATION.
ガタン
KA-KLUNK
GUHH
SHE REALLY IS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL.
AND OF COURSE,

BETWEEN TRAINING AND STUDYING FOR TESTS, I'VE BEEN SO BUSY THESE DAYS.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF I GOT A CHANCE TO RELAX.
...TAKE THE LEAD, EH?
Witch Craft Works
New Open
Coffee and Cakes


BALANCE BALL
SILENT TREAT



SALE!!


So?
Find anything you like?

Maybe I'll have you choose for me.
HUH ?
...
HMM...

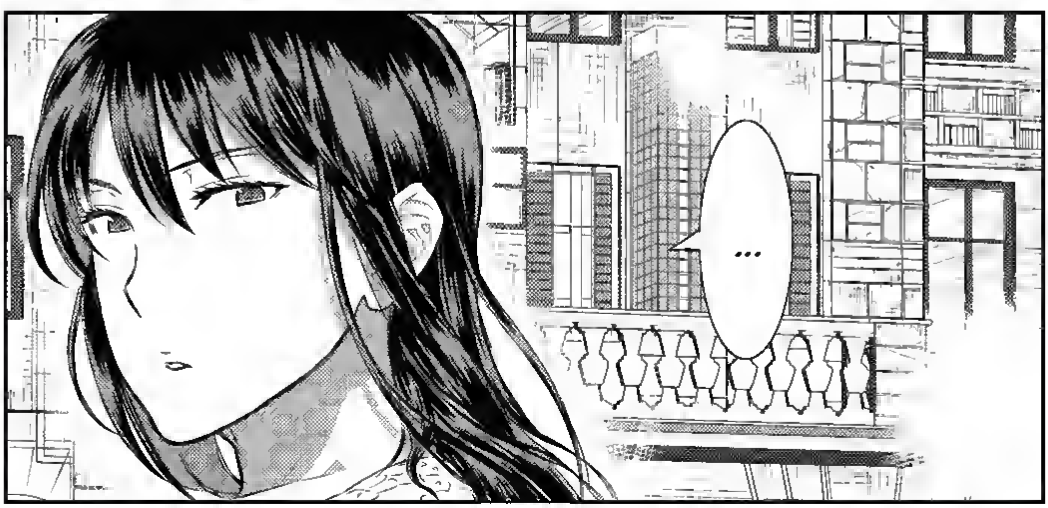
Maybe I'll have you choose for me.
HOLD ON
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GIRLS' CLOTHES.
Didn't your mother tell you to take the lead?
?!
She heard ?!
All right then...
SHWINK
You chose the Princess's clothes?!
Get Haruka to buy it for her
WHAA ?
FAIRFX

Don't you think this is a little too showy?

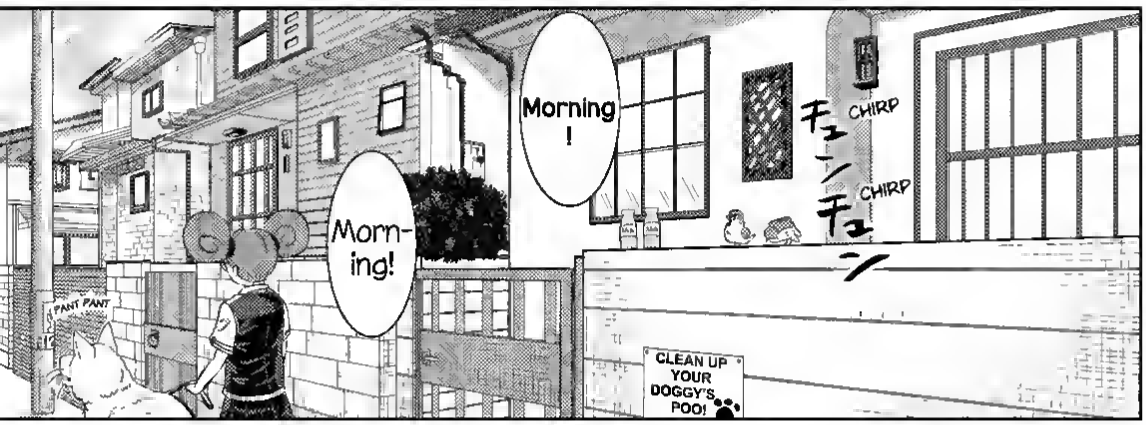
...
HONK
HONK
DRAAAG
ズルズル

Takamiya ...
I really think this might be too showy.

Really?
I think it looks great on you!


...

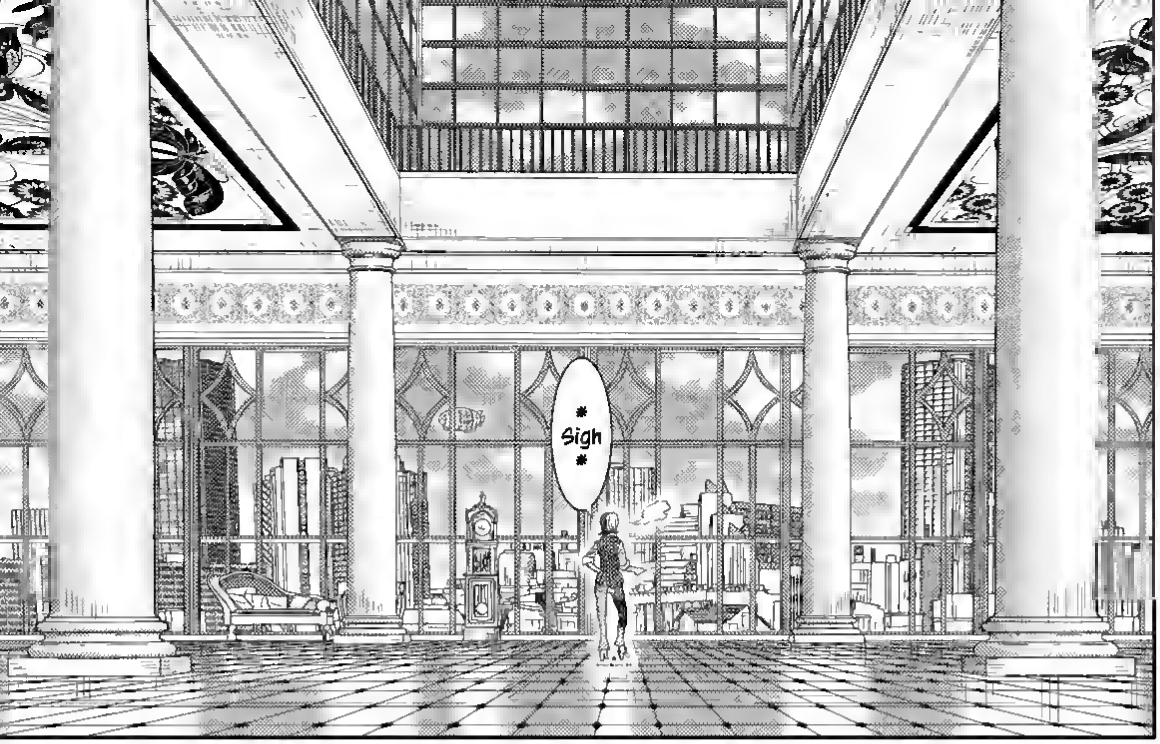
YOU'RE GOING WITH ME NEXT WEEK! GOT THAT, HONOKA?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
Oh my, Ayaka! How pretty!!

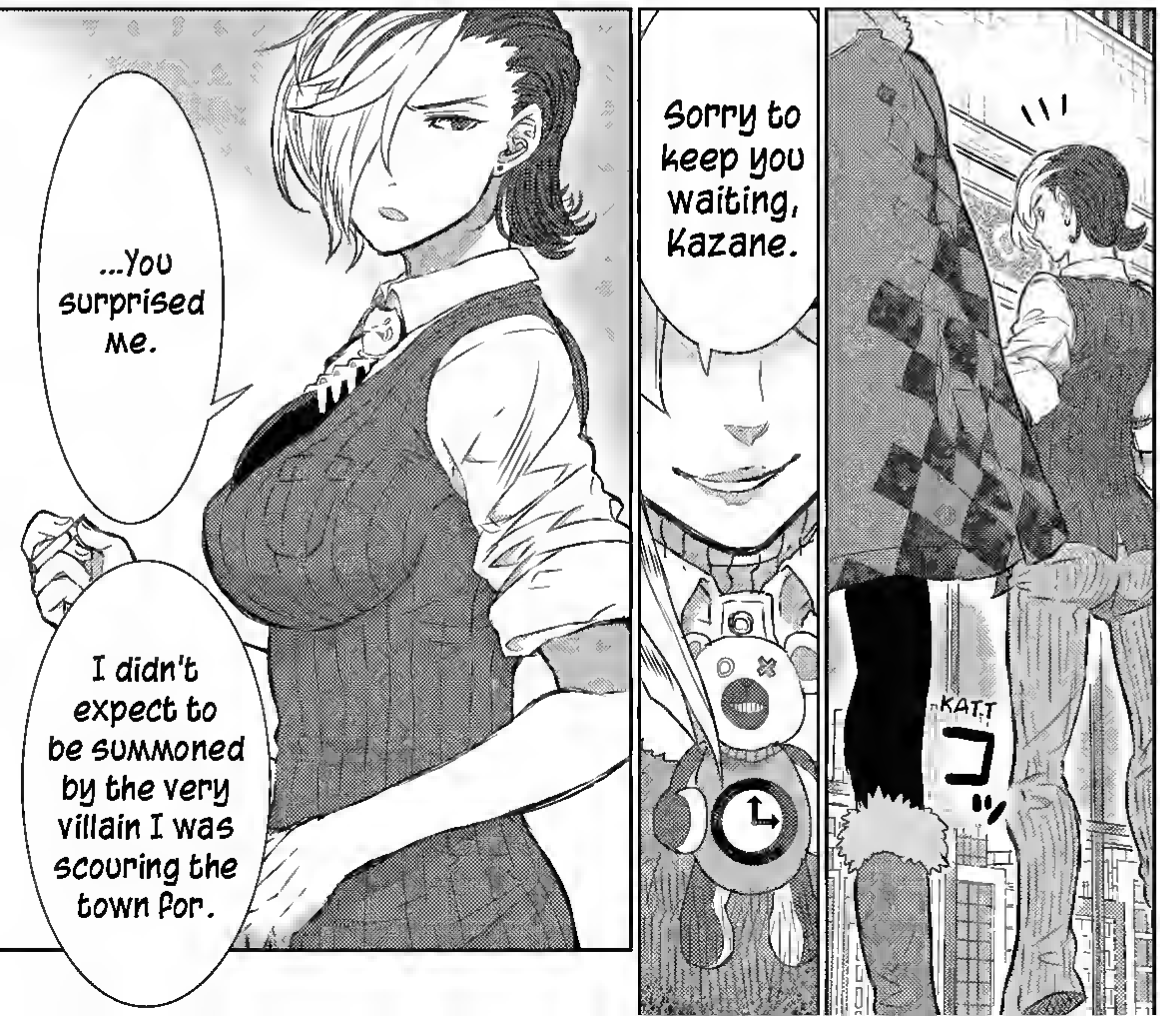

Morning!
Morn-ing!
CHIRP
CHIRP
PANT PANT
CLEAN UP YOUR DOGGY'S POO!

THUD.
You there, Kasumi?
Do you have your handkerchief, Honoka?
I'm fine, Mom.
Oh, Princess! Good morning!
KA-CHAK
BAM
WE'RE OFF!
I'M SLEEPY.

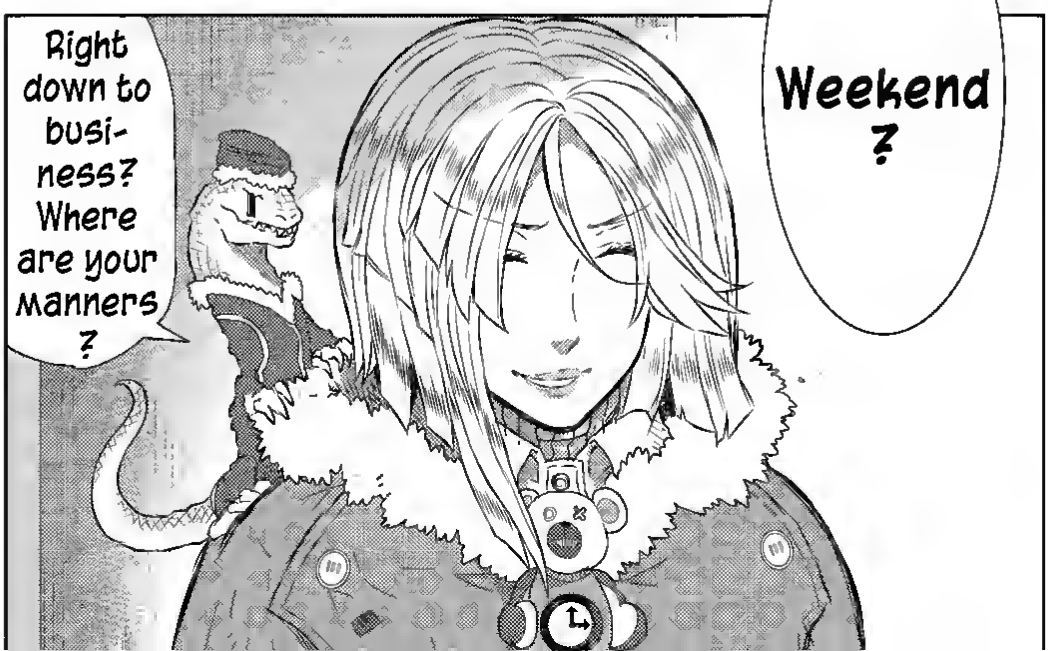
BAM
BAM
Where are my socks, Mom?
Your cooking is truly peerless, Mother.
Hehe... Everyone eat up!
Pass me the sauce?
Sauce? Mayo goes best with fried eggs.

...
Finals start today. We got this!
* * TESTING HAS BEGUN GOOD LUCK * *
You studyz
I'M SLEEPY
...
Morn-ing!
Morn-ing!
ZZZ

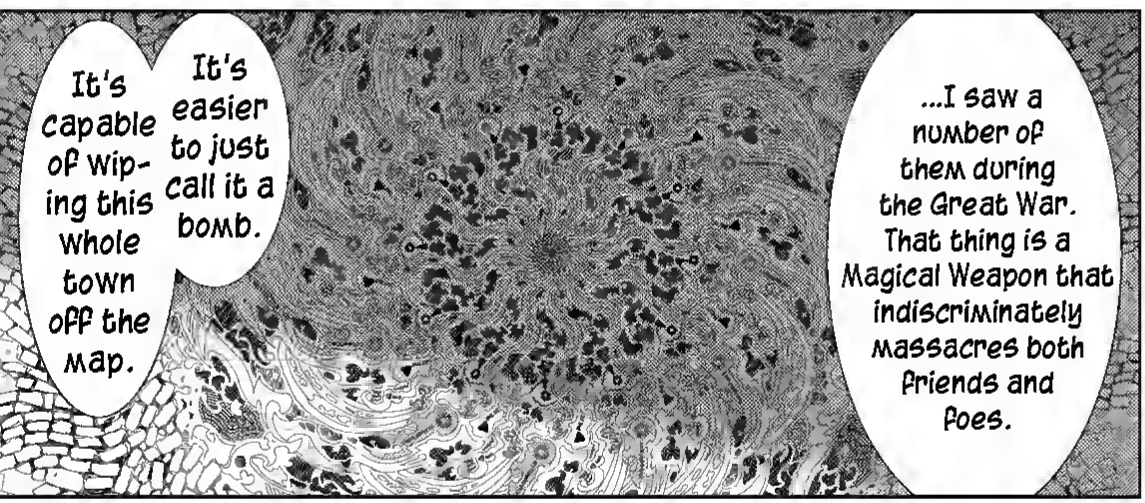

Sigh


KATT
Sorry to keep you waiting, Kazane.
...You surprised me.
I didn't expect to be summoned by the very villain I was scouring the town for.

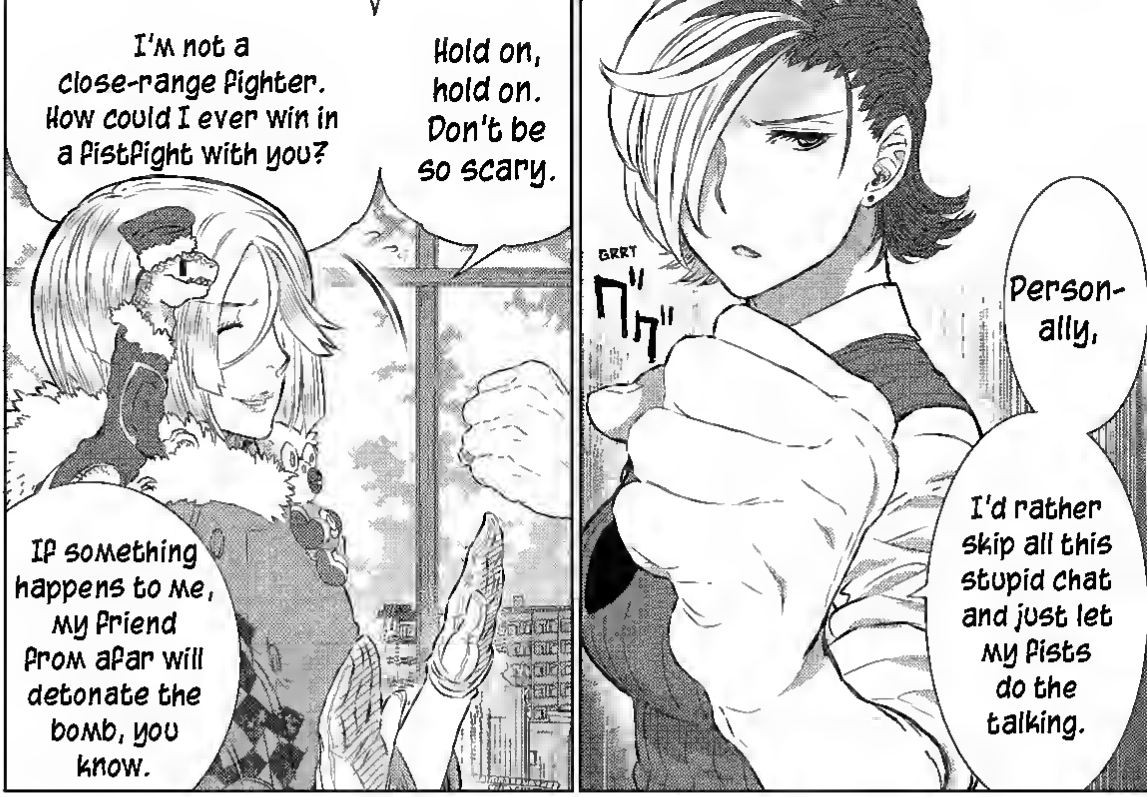
What exactly are you planning,
KLUNK


Weekend?
Right down to business? Where are your manners?

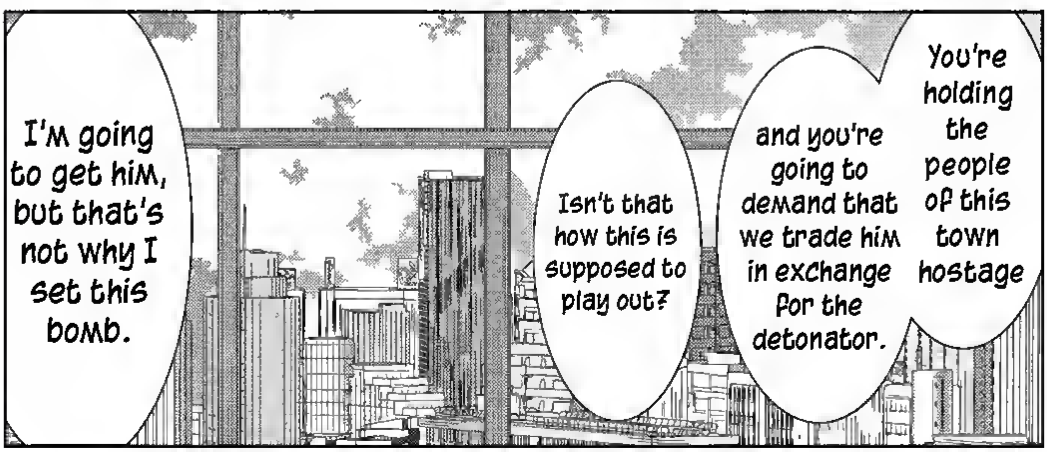
Don't play dumb. You put that thing in the sewers.
It wasn't hard to figure out. You're the only witch sick enough to create one in that shape.
I see...
So you know what it is?
Putting that there without you Workshop Witches noticing wasn't easy.
KATT
KATT


...I saw a number of them during the Great War. That thing is a Magical Weapon that indiscriminately massacres both friends and foes.
It's easier to just call it a bomb.
It's capable of wiping this whole town off the map.

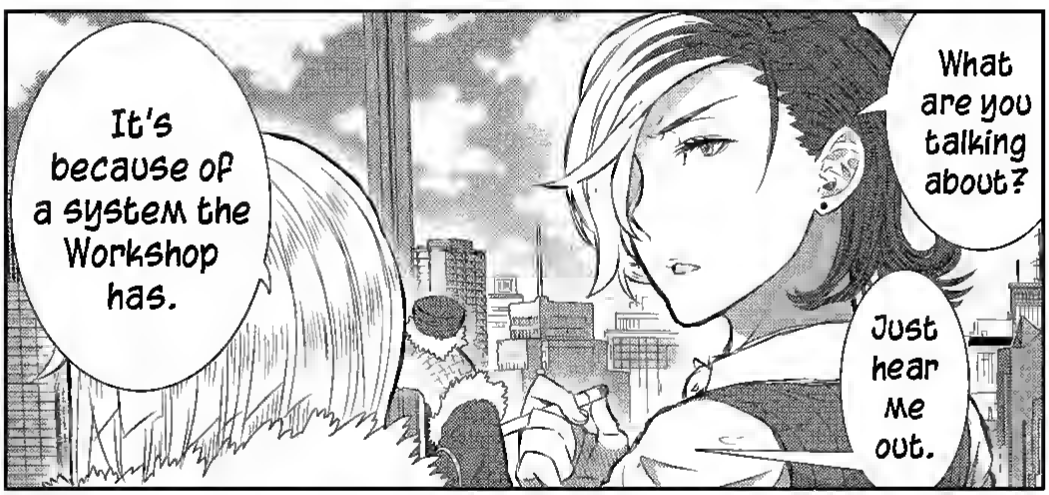
You made a smart decision to not tamper with it, even after you discovered it.
Only a few witches are able to disarm it.
Fiddle with it the wrong way, and ka-boom.
Someone had made a blood pact.
It's set up so only that individual can disarm it.
All right. Let's negotiate. You called me here because you want him, right?

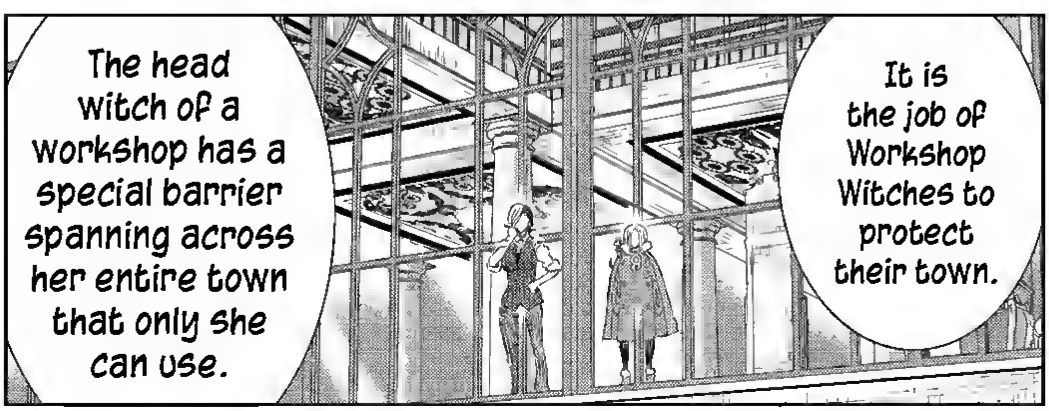

I'm not a close-range fighter. How could I ever win in a fistfight with you?
Hold on, hold on. Don't be so scary.
If something happens to me, my friend from afar will detonate the bomb, you know.
GRRT
Personally,
I'd rather skip all this stupid chat and just let my fists do the talking.

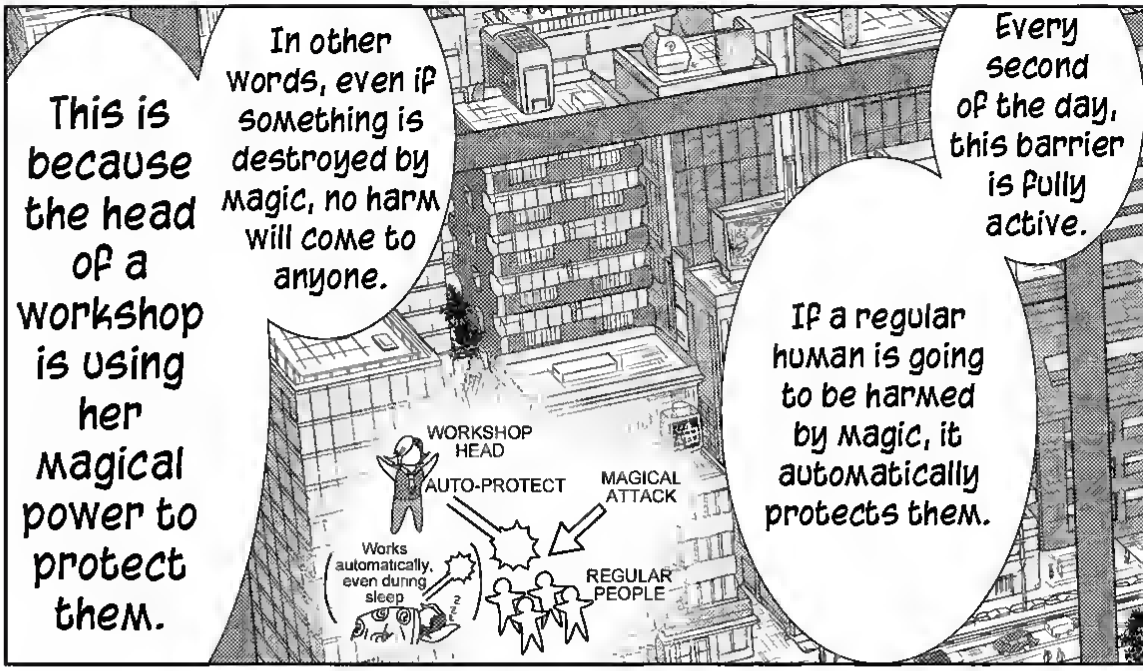
What?
I didn't call you here in order to negotiate.
You seem to be mistaken about something.
POP
Then hurry up and get to the point.


I'm going to get him, but that's not why I set this bomb.
Isn't that how this is supposed to play out?
and you're going to demand that we trade him in exchange for the detonator.
You're holding the people of this town hostage

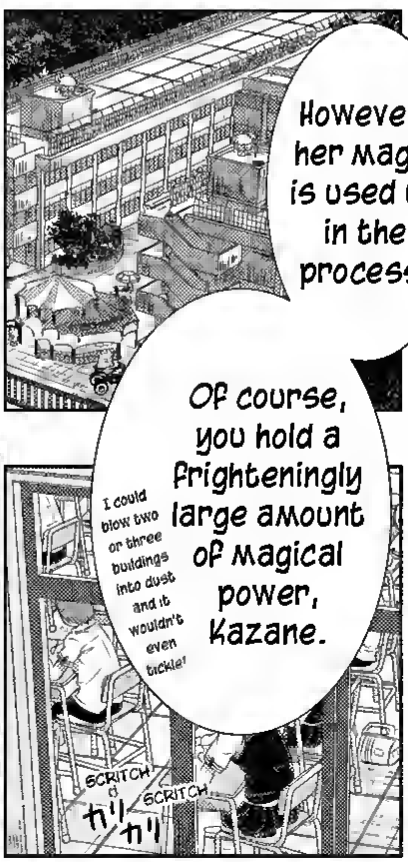
You know, Kazane.
Killing a human is easy. Just buy a blade at a corner store and attack someone who looks weak from behind.
But doing it with magic is a different story.
Never mind other witches, but it's nearly impossible to kill a regular human being with it.


What are you talking about?
Just hear me out.
It's because of a system the Workshop has.


It is the job of Workshop Witches to protect their town.
The head witch of a workshop has a special barrier spanning across her entire town that only she can use.


This is because the head of a workshop is using her magical power to protect them.
In other words, even if something is destroyed by magic, no harm will come to anyone.
Every second of the day, this barrier is fully active.
If a regular human is going to be harmed by magic, it automatically protects them.
WORKSHOP HEAD
AUTO-PROTECT
MAGICAL ATTACK
Works automatically, even during sleep
REGULAR PEOPLE

But what if you had to protect every life in this town at the exact same time?
SCRITCH
カリ
SCRITCH
カリ

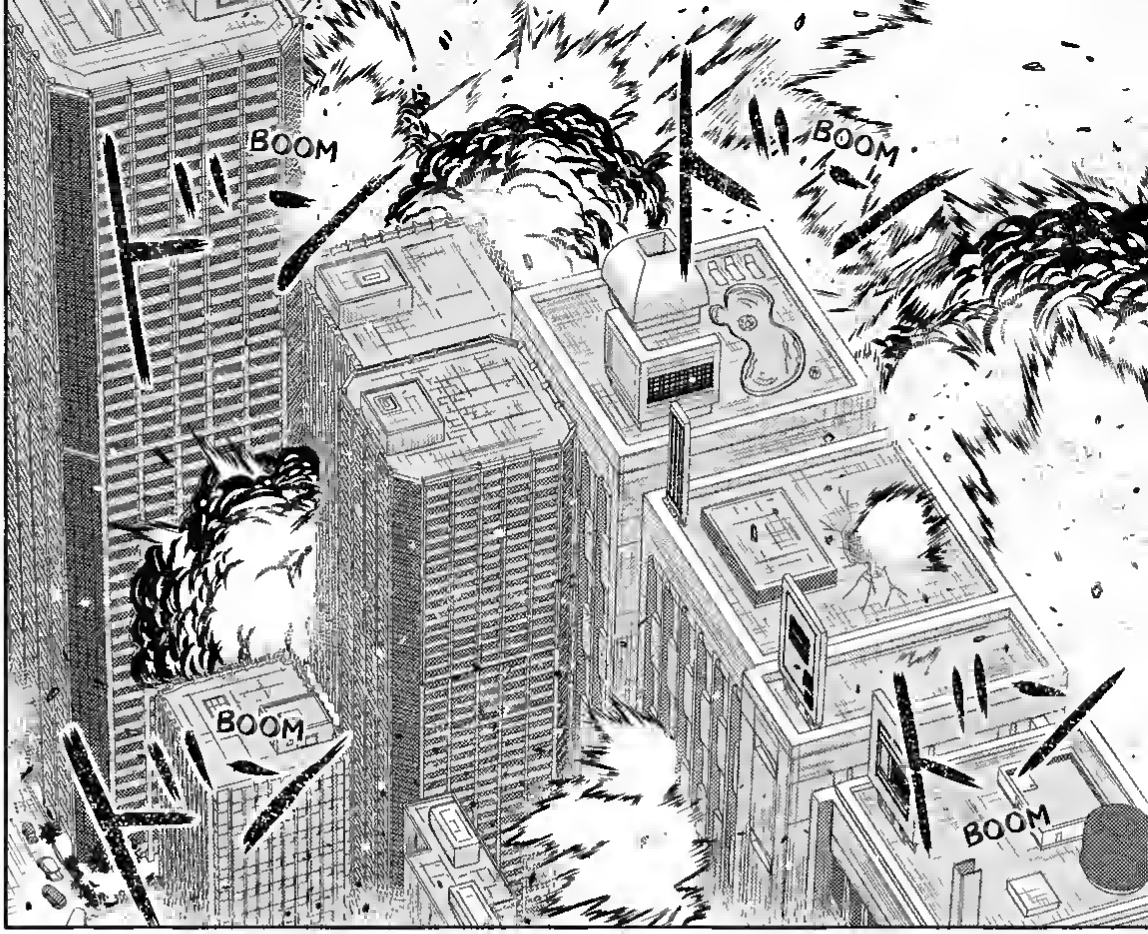

However, her magic is used up in the process.
Of course, you hold a frighteningly large amount of Magical power, Kazane.
I could blow two or three buildings into dust and it wouldn't even tickle!
SCRITCH
カリ
SCRITCH
カリ

?!
You're not planning to...
This...
WEEKEND
KATT
was my plan from the beginning!

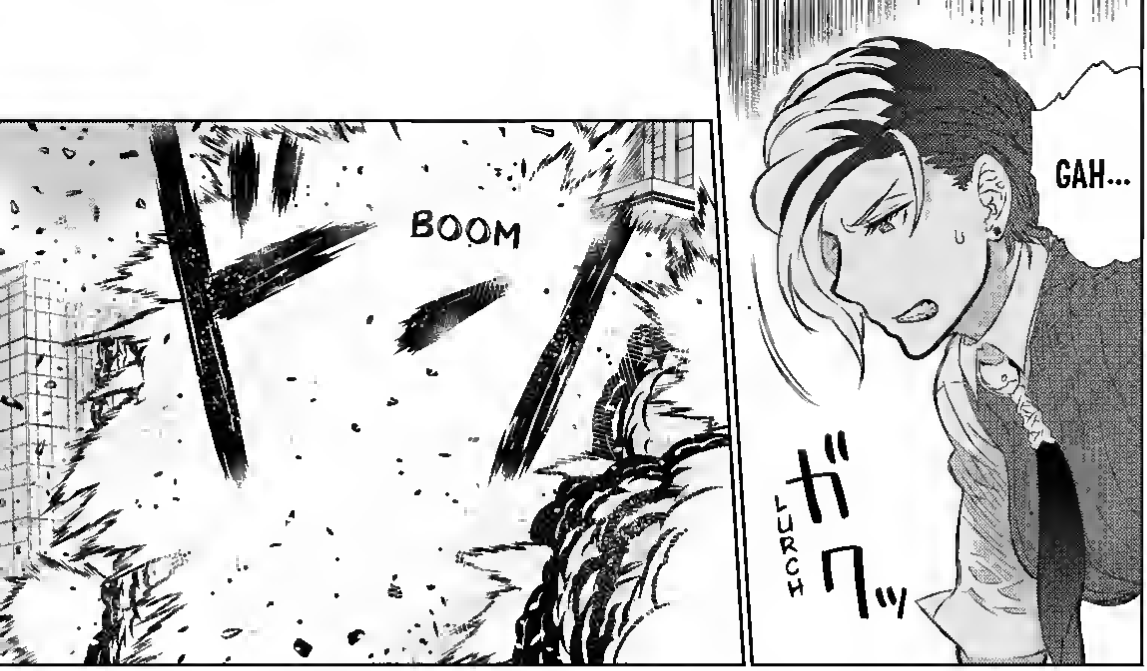
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

BOOM
BOOM

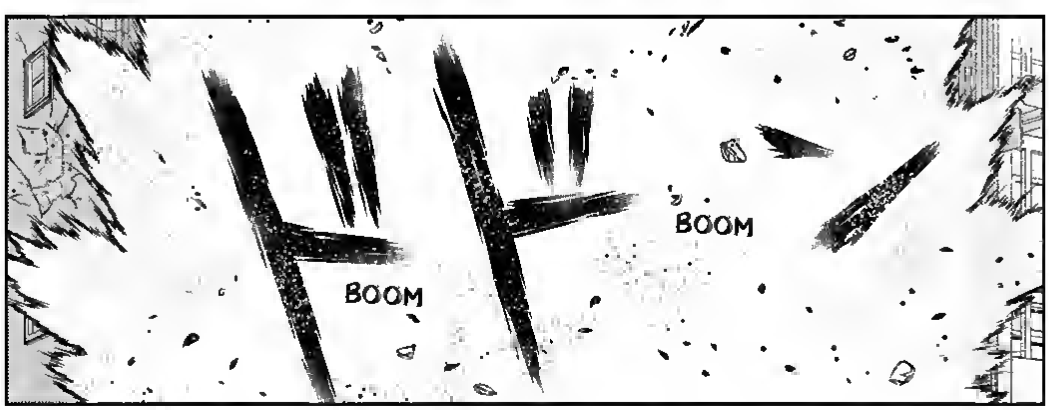
BOOM
BOOM

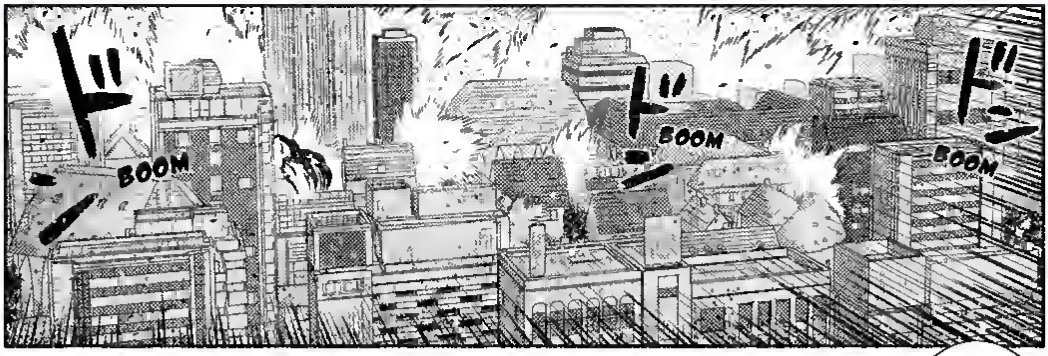

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

ズズーン
THOOM
BOOM
BOOM

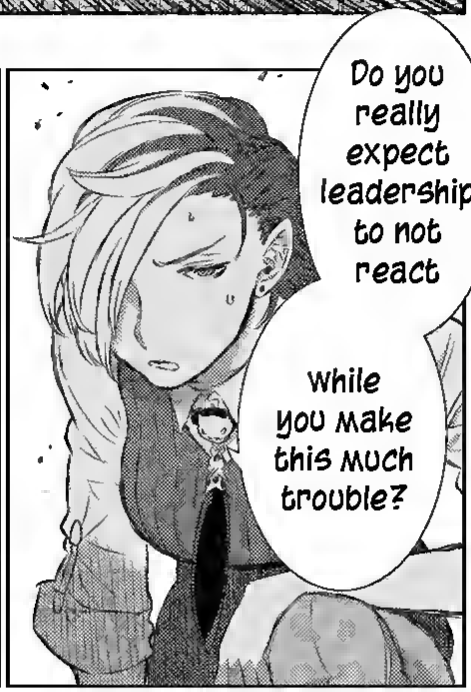

BOOM
GAH...
ガハッ
LURCH

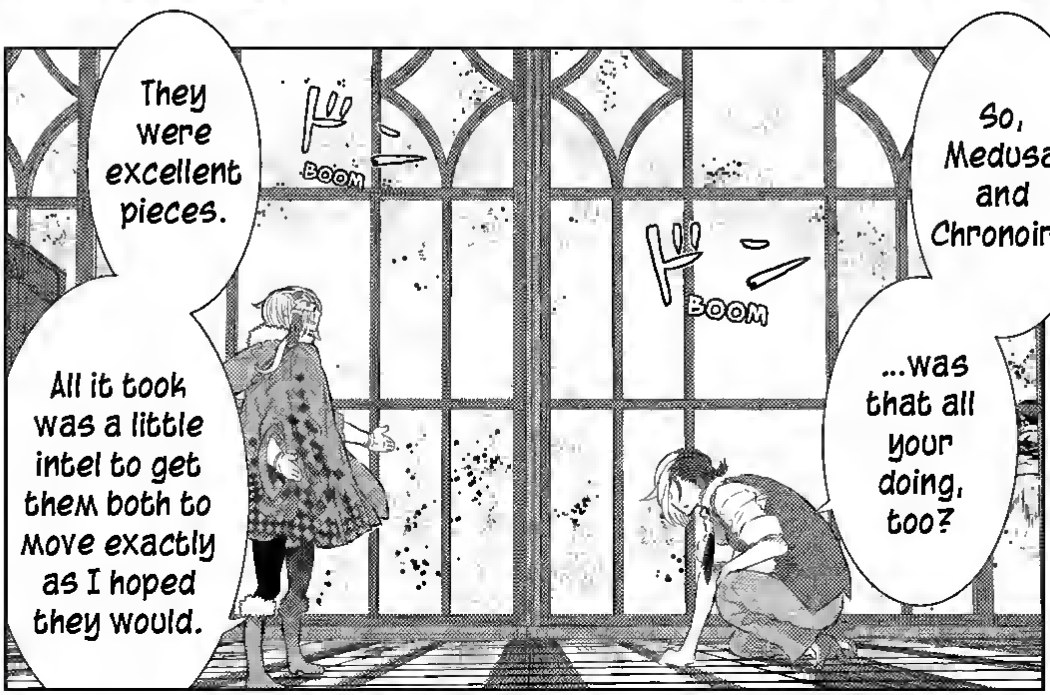
BOOM
BOOM


BOOM
BOOM

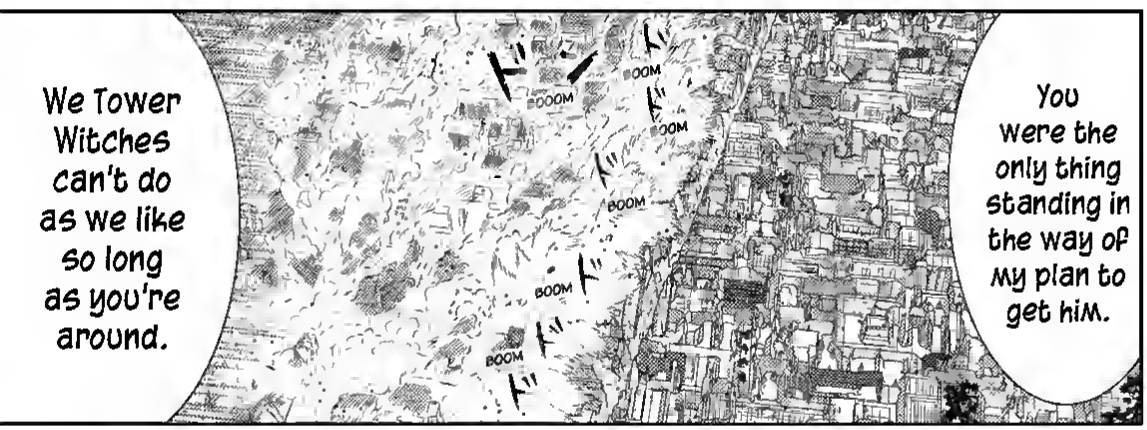

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

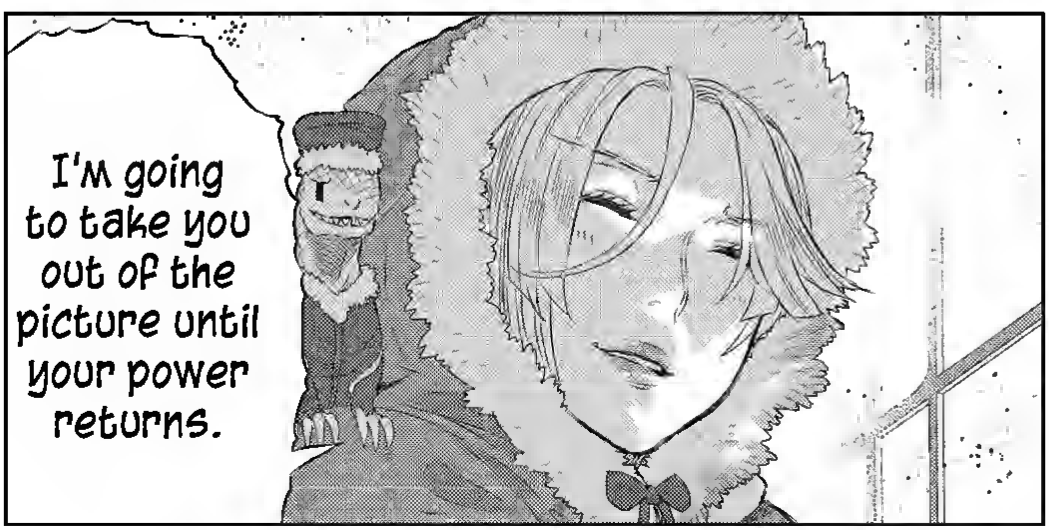
That's why I'll grab the White Princess and scram before they get involved.

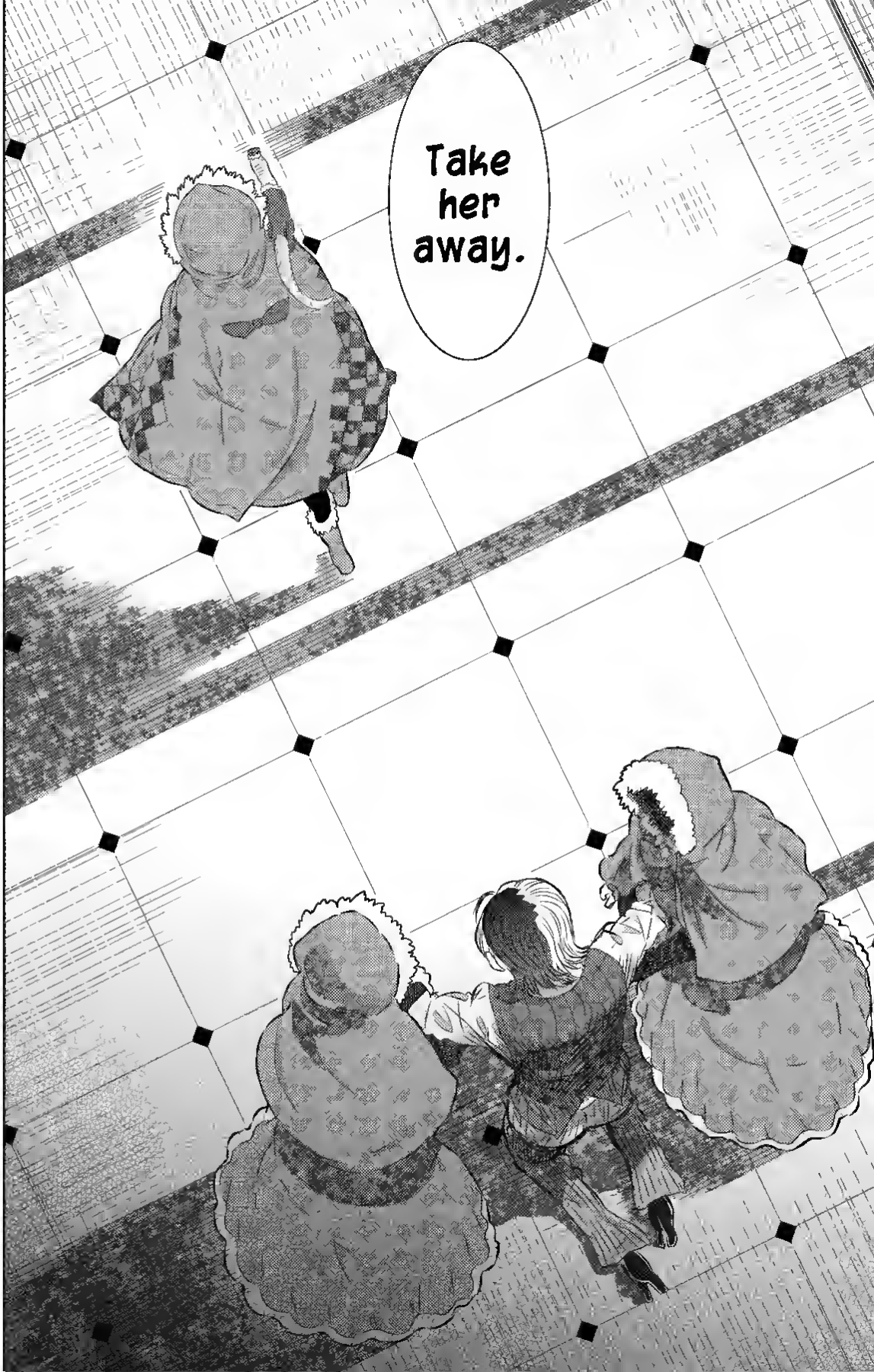

Do you really expect leadership to not react
While you make this much trouble?

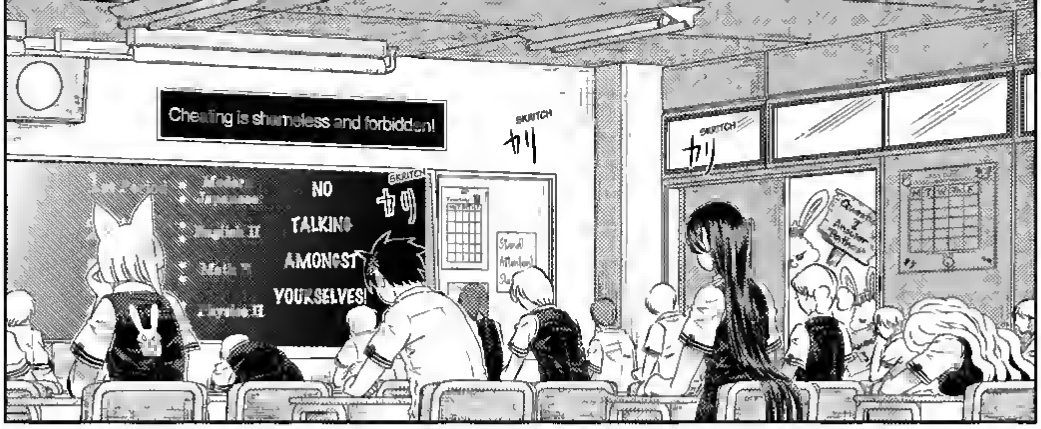

They were excellent pieces.
All it took was a little intel to get them both to move exactly as I hoped they would.
BOOM
BOOM
So, Medusa and Chronoire
...was that all your doing, too?

My goal was to render you powerless.
So...
your magical power should be running dry soon, Kazane.
BOOM
BOOM


We Tower Witches can't do as we like so long as you're around.
You were the only thing standing in the way of my plan to get him.
BOOM


I'm going to take you out of the picture until your power returns.


Take her away.


Cheating is shameless and forbidden!
NO TALKING AMONGST YOURSELVES!
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

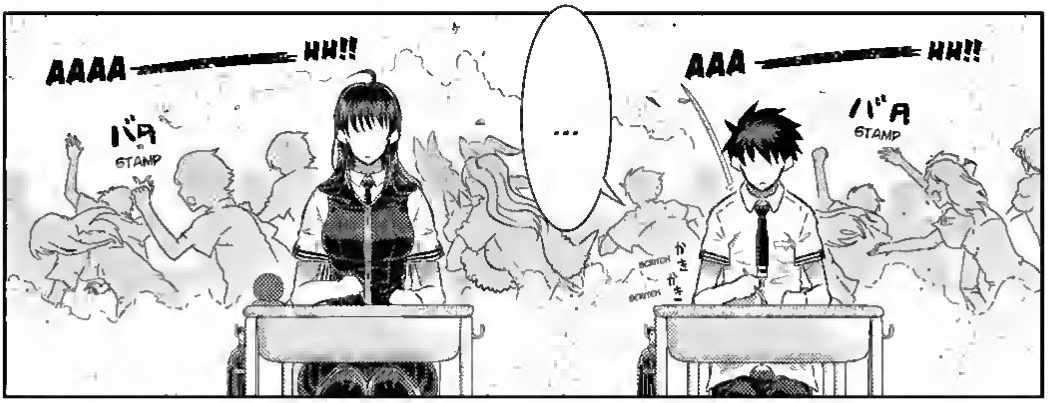
?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

BOOOM
AAHH !!

BOOM
EARTH-
QUAKE
?
HELP
ME!
WHAT
HAPPENED
?!
BOOM

3rd Period: Math
BOOM
Get out
of the
class-
room!
Every-
one!

and
con-
tinue.
Let's
get back
to our
seats
Wha?
KAGARI
!
Are
you
okay?


AAAA——HH!!
バタ
STAMP
...
AAA——HH!!
バタ
STAMP
SCRITCH
SCRITCH

Taka-
Miya,
you need to stay quiet during tests.

Wait,
no, this isn't right !!
We need to evacu-ate!
THUNK

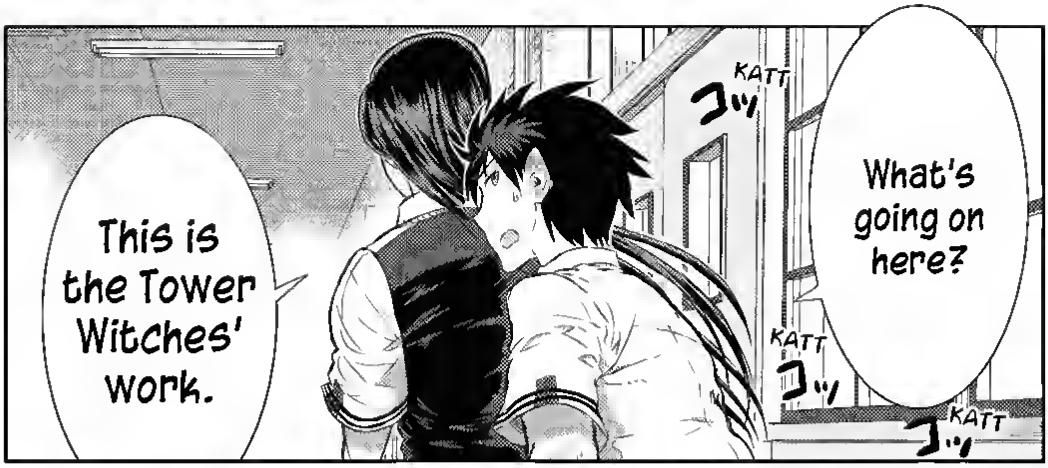
AAAHH!
I don't think this is the time for...
がら——ん
CREEAK
No, really ...

BOOM
WHOA !!

WH...
WHAA ?!
CLUNK
ゴトン
CLUNK
ゴトン

TUCK
ガタッ

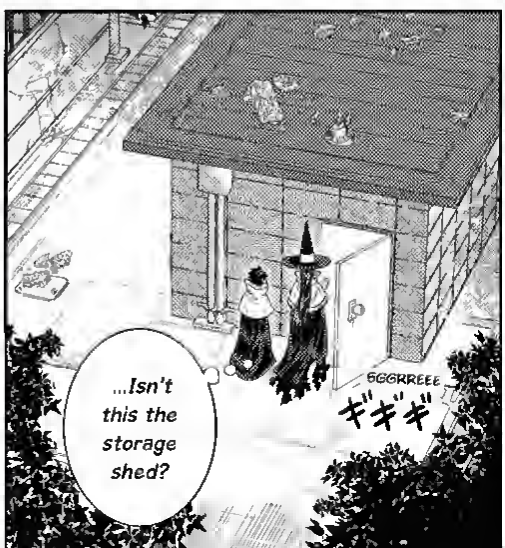
Never Mind that. Come with Me.
We need to go that way to evac-uate!
EEEK!
AAAH!
KATT
コツ
KATT
コツ
...


This is the Tower Witches' work.
What's going on here?
KATT
コッ
KATT
コッ
KATT
コッ

バサッ
WOOSH
TOSS
ポイ

!
Here.

KLIK
カチリ


...Isn't this the storage shed?
SGGRREEE
ギギギ

バン
BAM

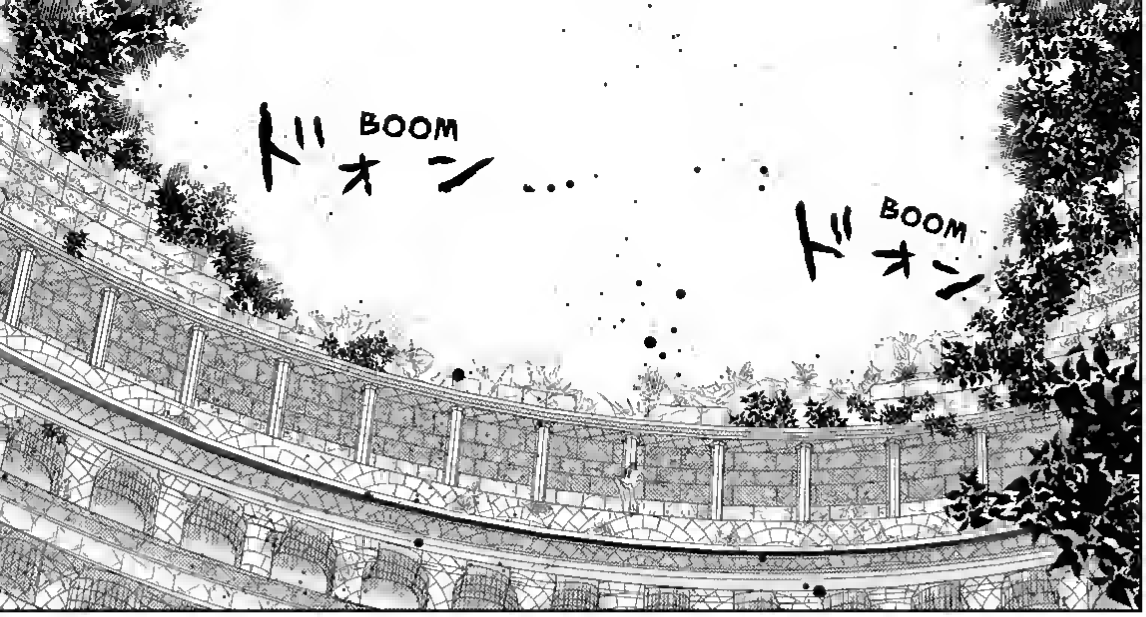
カンカン
CLANG CLANG
This way.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Otsuka Pears
MAE-O-TY
ガコン
CLUNK
I never imagined there was a place like this on campus.
カ
カ
カ
カ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

One week.
It will take a full week for your magic to return. If I can get him before then, I win. Otherwise, Kazane, you're the victor.

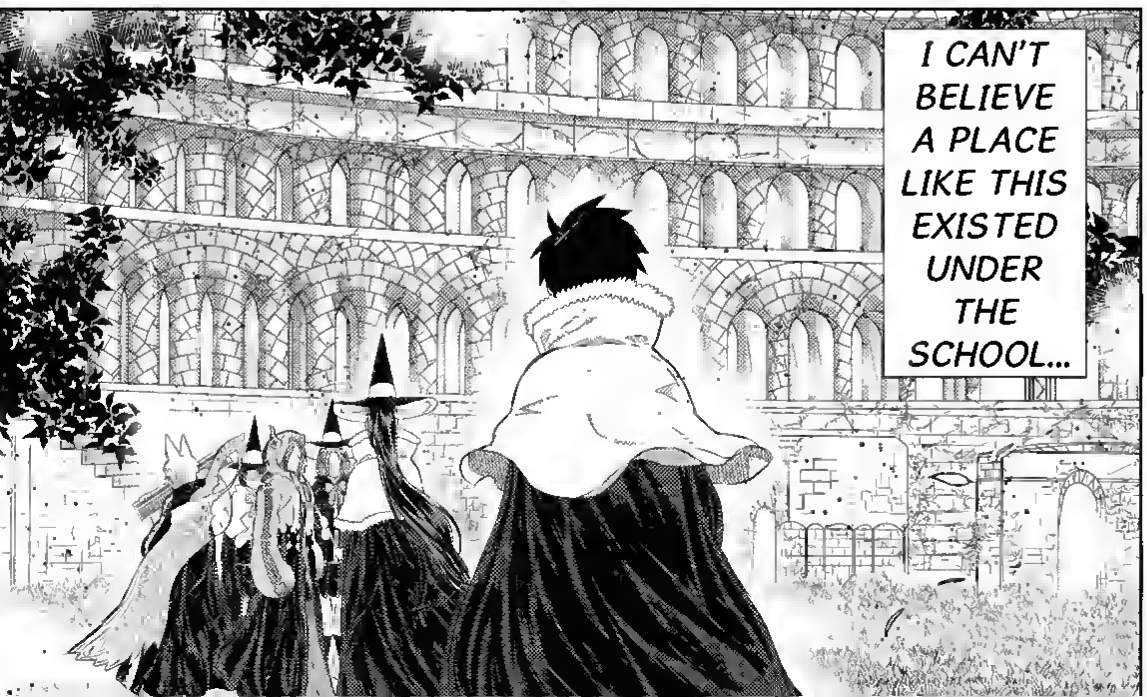
CHAPTER 17 END

The Furry-ears evacuate along with the rest of the regular students.

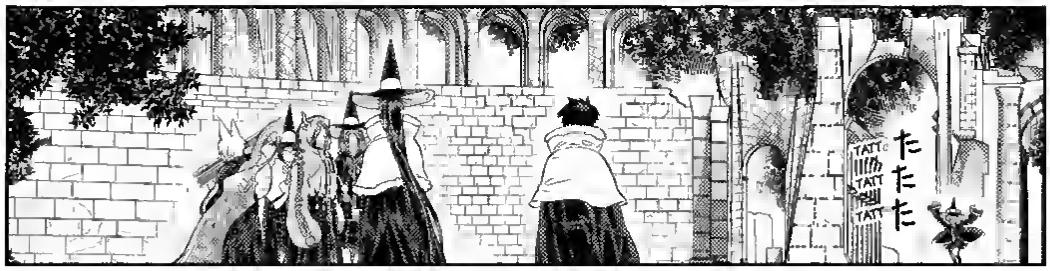
Witchcraft Works


ドォン…
BOOM
ドォン
BOOM

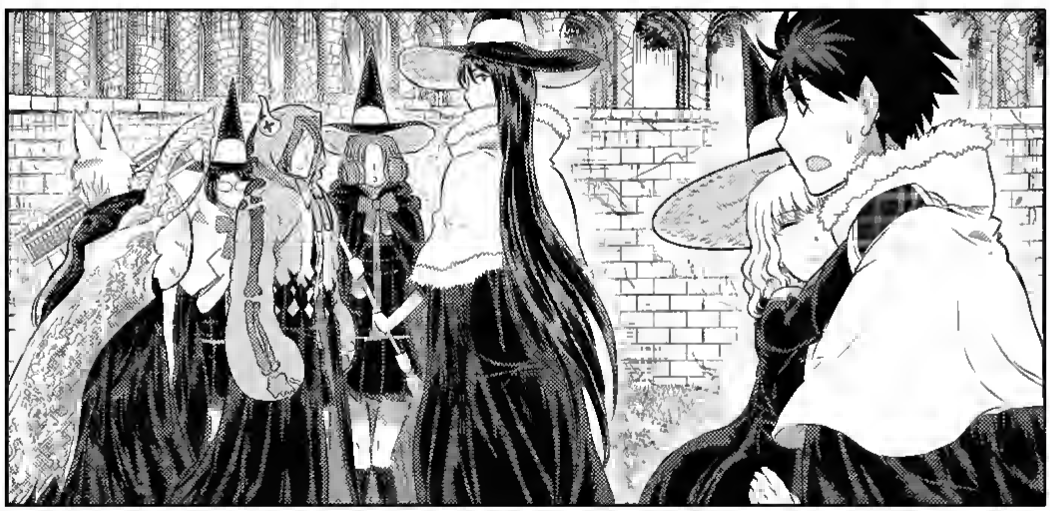
パラパラ
FLUTTER
ドォン
BOOM


I CAN'T BELIEVE A PLACE LIKE THIS EXISTED UNDER THE SCHOOL...

CHAPTER 18 Takamiya and the Fight Against Weekend: 1


たたた
TATT
TATT
TATT

KASUMI!
だっ
BAM
WHOA!
Hono-
kaaaa
!!



Welcome,
Takamiya,
to our
Workshop.

You must be meeting these two for the first time. Allow me to introduce you.
Rinon's my master!
Really?
I recently learned that you've become the Princess's apprentice.
And Kasumi's older brother.
Welcome.
Rinon!
TIP チョン
First, this is Natsume, our leader.
OH!
Glad to meet you, Takamiya. My name's Natsume Mikage.
I've, ah... been made leader of this team of five witches who protect the town, and...
W-well, in any case, I'm glad to have you here!

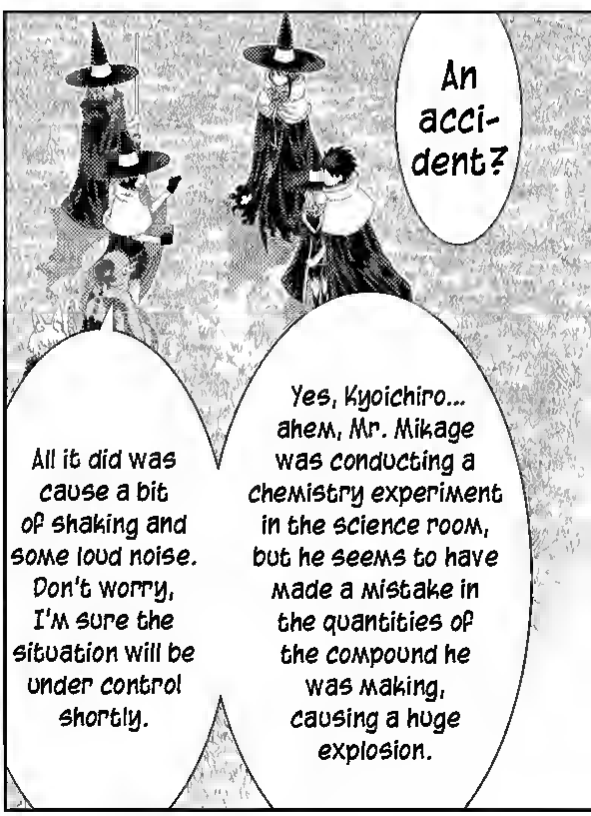
And this is Atori.
...
E-ears!
She looks more competent, though
And I'm just an alternate! I only have to protect the town when you're in trouble, Honoka!
Ah, she is a little brusque, but she's a very good girl! Please get along!

So, um...
What exactly happened outside?

チラッ
GLANCE
!
...
ドヤ

ばっ
BAM
Allow me to explain-
All right, then!

FLIP
HUH?
That's strange. Mr. Mikage was administering a test in our class...
Oh, really? Then maybe it was a different teacher.


An acci-dent?
Yes, Kyoichiro... ahem, Mr. Mikage was conducting a chemistry experiment in the science room, but he seems to have made a mistake in the quantities of the compound he was making, causing a huge explosion.
All it did was cause a bit of shaking and some loud noise. Don't worry, I'm sure the situation will be under control shortly.

In any case, don't panic, and-

ダン
BAM
ダン
BAM
ダン
BAM
Ah!

HONOKA!
ヒュッ
WHOOSH
Huh?
ズズズ
ZZZT

CLOBBER
ゴッ!!
Guh!

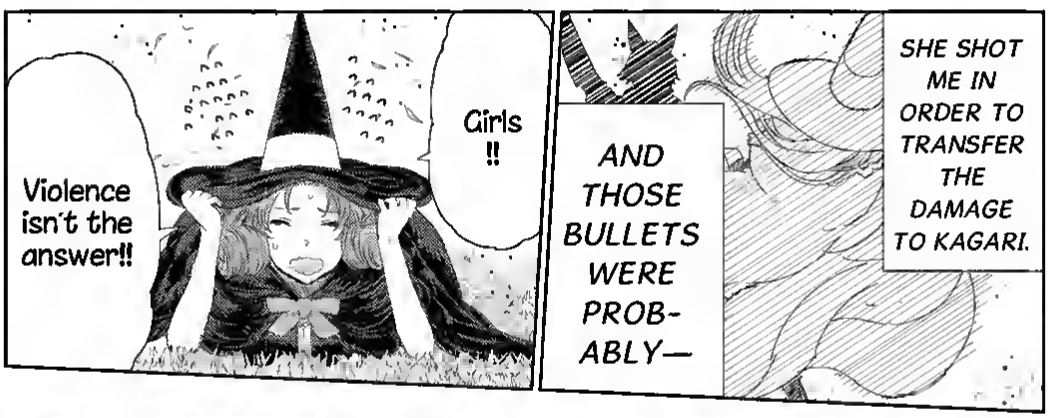
ぽん
SMAK

BAM
ばっ

?!

AGH!
ZZT
THUK
I'VE BEEN HIT, BUT
I FEEL FINE...
Are you all right, Honoka?
OH.
BAM
NOW I GET IT.

THEY'RE AFTER KAGARI!
WAAAIT !!
!
STAGGER
HONOK...


Girls !!
Violence isn't the answer!!
AND THOSE BULLETS WERE PROB-ABLY—
SHE SHOT ME IN ORDER TO TRANSFER THE DAMAGE TO KAGARI.

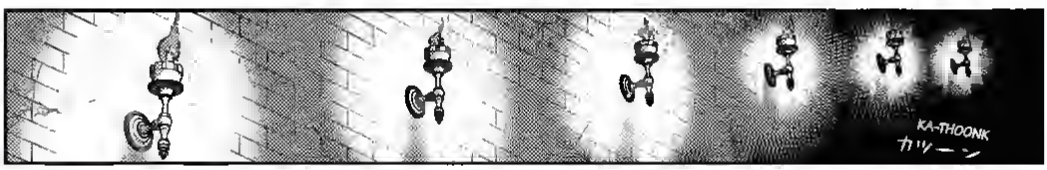
ZZT

正義
JUSTICE
BAM
ばっ
THEY WOULDN'T HURT AN ALLY. THEY JUST PUT HER TO SLEEP.
zzz...
すうすう
I KNEW IT.
...
!

Wh-what are you trying to do to them, Rinon?
I don't care if you're my master, I may have to—

...Rinon.
THUMP
トン
Ugh.

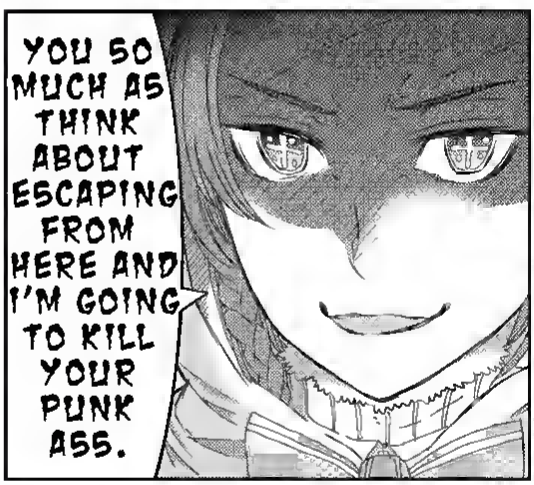
Forgive us for this show of violence.
We're actually facing a bit of a problem, and we now have no choice but to put you in confinement.
We'll now be taking you to a safe location.
Could you please come with me?
ZZZ


KA-THOONK
カツーン

KA-THOONK
カツーン

I can't tell you what's happening at this time.
However, I'll reveal all once this is over.
Even my measure-ments.
HUH?
That was a joke.
KA-THOONK
カ/ーン
Um, where are we heading?
The bot-tom.
Still, I was surprised by that scene earlier.
Earlier ?
I've associated with the Princess since eighth grade.
But I'd never seen her like that before.
I suppose she is a maiden, just like the rest of us. I'd thought she was a heartless robot.
* Sigh... *

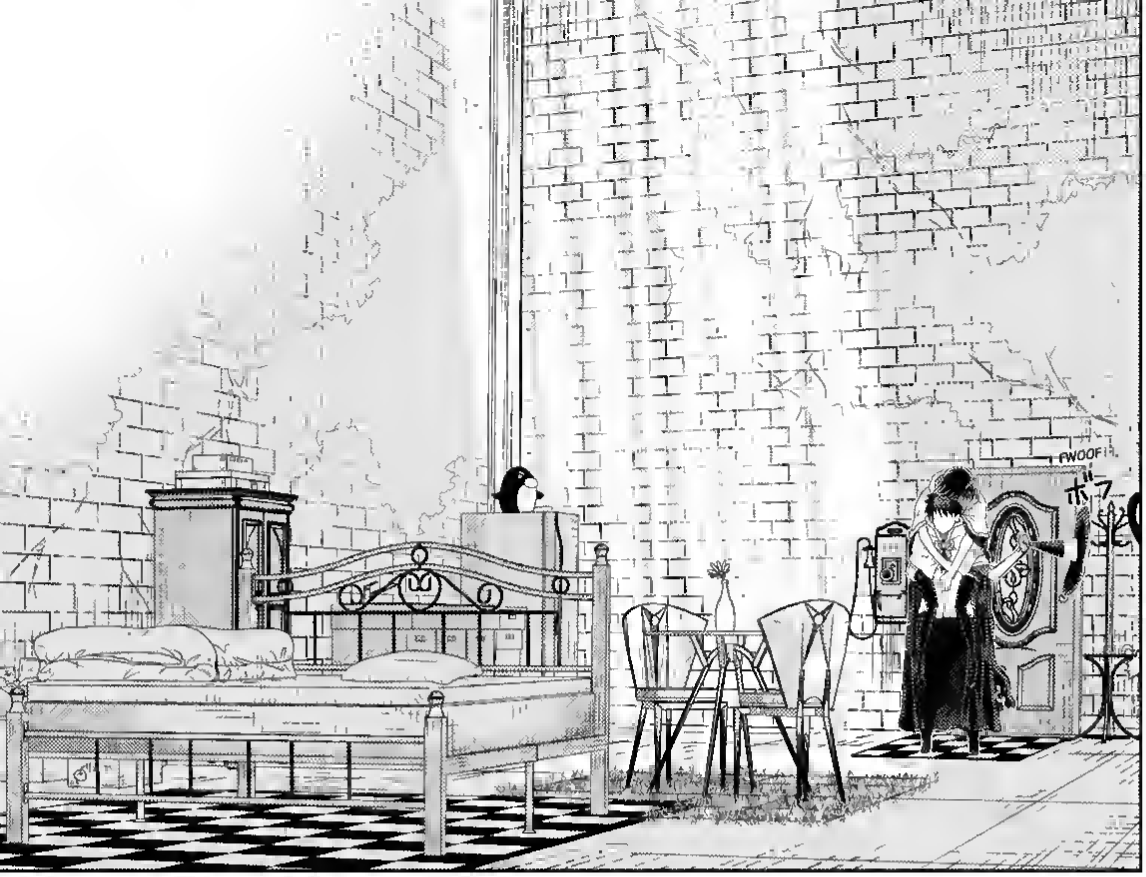
All right, we're here.
I'll have to ask you to stay here and not cause trouble for the time being.
ガチャッ
KA-CHIK
KATT


YOU SO MUCH AS THINK ABOUT ESCAPING FROM HERE AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOUR PUNK ASS.

But...
allow me to make one thing very clear, first.

バターン
SLAM
ガチャン
GA-CHIK

Oops! I suppose it's unlady-like of me to use such coarse language.
Adieu!
Eeeek!


AWOOF!
ボフ

すうzzzすう
...
Hup!
THUD
ドサ
ドサ

WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE? THAT OION'T SEEM LIKE A QUAKE. IT WAS MORE OF AN EXPLOSION.
IF I NEED TO BE HIOOEN AWAY HERE, THEN SOMEONE MUST BE AFTER ME. COULD TOWER WITCHES HAVE ATTACKEO?
ANO IT MIGHT BE A STRONG ENEMY, TOO. THEY'VE NEVER GATHEREO TOGETHER LIKE THAT BEFORE, ANO IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE HIOING SOMETHING FROM ME.
ZZZ...
すぅ すぅ
HIDE HERE UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER?
KNOCK KNOCK
FIDGET...
KA-CHIK KA-CHIK
RUSTLE RUSTLE
BUT THIS INVOLVES ME DIRECTLY!
...
THERE'S NO KNOB ON THIS DOOR.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN USE HIDDEN IN THE WALLS, AND THE PHONE IS DEAD. ALL I HAVE IS FOOD.
AND WHAT A HIGH CEIL-ING.
IT LOOKS LIKE I COULD ES-CAPE FROM THERE, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GO THAT HIGH UP.

ぽんっ
POOF
TWIST
くい
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
ばっ
BAM
I CAN FLY ON MY BROOM !
SQUIRM
もそ
Mmh...
HUH?
...
シーン
FSHHH

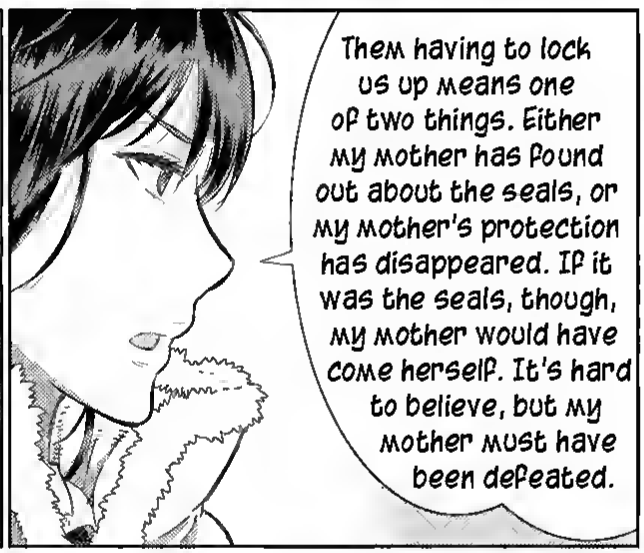
?!
KAGARI!
Good morning.
You can't use magic right now.

What a blunder... I can't believe Natsume got me.
I should have noticed when she brought out that gun. She doesn't normally use one.
Yes...
BAM
Are you all right?!
CLANK
カラン

...
Explain in a way that I'll understand.
What's going on?

I don't know what's going on, either.
But my senses tell me that Tower Witches used some sort of powerful magic during the test.
You saw how everything was so chaotic at school, right? We've been told to gather in the basement of the Workshop when things like that happen.
But I never imagined they were in such a desperate situation that they'd have to lock us up. If I'd known, I wouldn't have gone.
Remember when I told you that you're only able to live a normal life because of my mother's protection?

WHAT? THE CHAIR-WOMAN?
Will she be all right?


Them having to lock us up means one of two things. Either my mother has found out about the seals, or my mother's protection has disappeared. If it was the seals, though, my mother would have come herself. It's hard to believe, but my mother must have been defeated.

There's no need to worry about her.
She's immortal. It's probably that her power was temporarily stolen from her.
トコトコ TROT TROT
Who knows how long it'll take... but in time, my mother will return to normal, demolish our enemies, then come back. Whoever we're facing should know that, too.

We were shut in here because if they can't capture you before my mother recovers, we win.
ポン THUP
ポン THUP
ポン THUP
As far as the magic—
ヒュー!! FWOOSH
...A stuffed animal?
クリ HUP
?
Something just flew in here from above, Kagari.

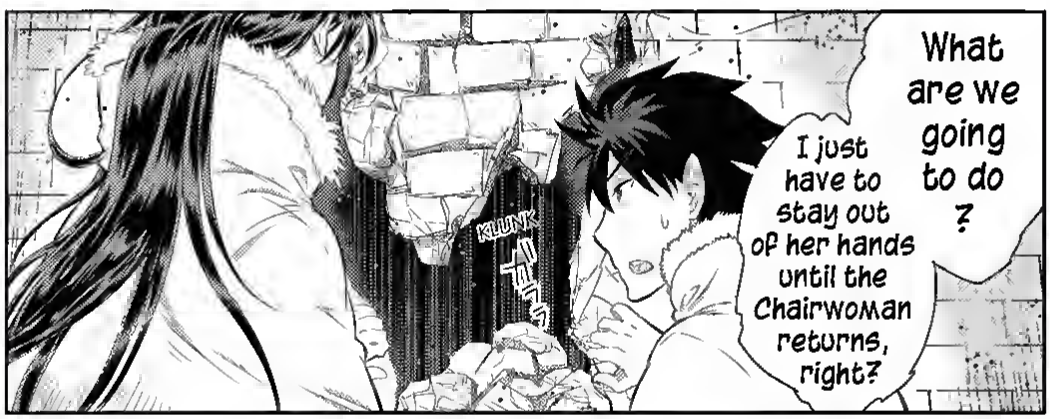
カパ
KA-POP
カッ!!
KATT
ヴーン
VWOOM
?!

What is this?
KOFF
ジジジ
My name is—
This is a magical hologram set to play automatically when you are discovered... Honoka Takamiya.

BOOOM
KAGARI
?!?

I found where they're being kept.
I'll be off to get them now.
Are you sure it's okay to do that, Kagari? That stuffed animal was right in the middle of talking...
It was just going to say something like, "Wait there, I'm coming to get you."
And you saw it explode, didn't you? It was dangerous to keep listening to it without doing something.
I don't think that's a valid reason for stomping it into the ground, though...

Look at that. It blasted a perfect opening through the wall.
Looks like we can get out now.
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

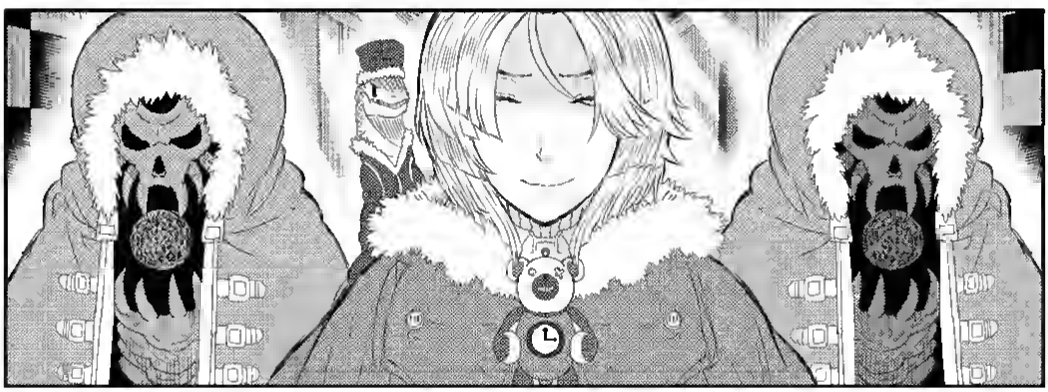

What are we going to do?
I just have to stay out of her hands until the Chairwoman returns, right?
KLUNK

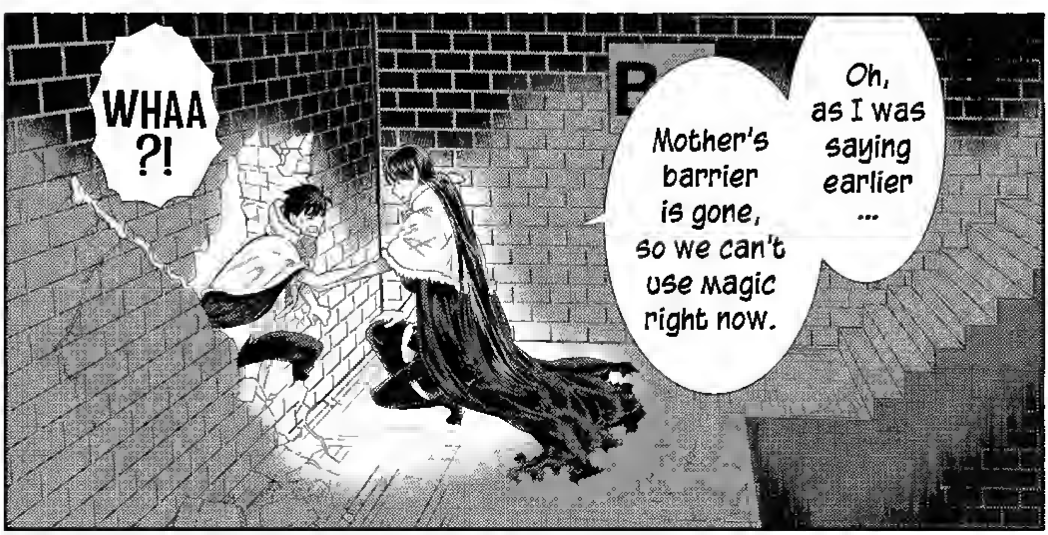
I got a good look at her face.

We're going to defeat her.

We're going to defeat her.

I know my daughter, and I'm sure she has absolutely no intention of staying on the run.
PHEW



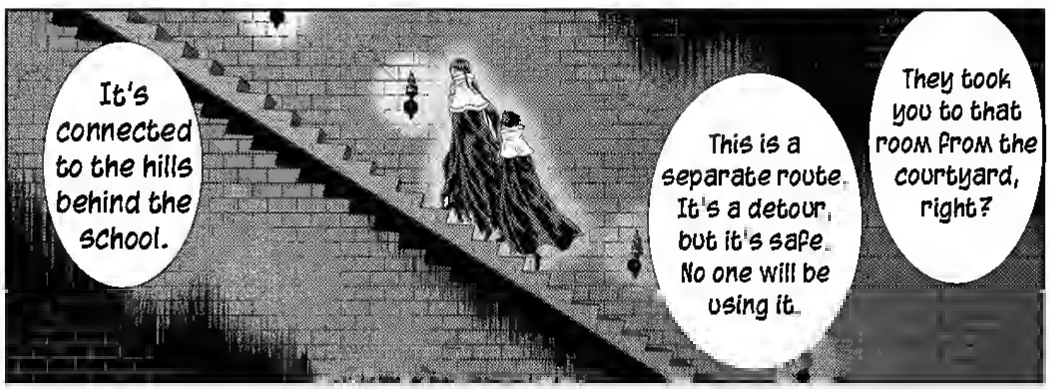

WHAA ?!
Mother's barrier is gone, so we can't use magic right now.
Oh, as I was saying earlier ...

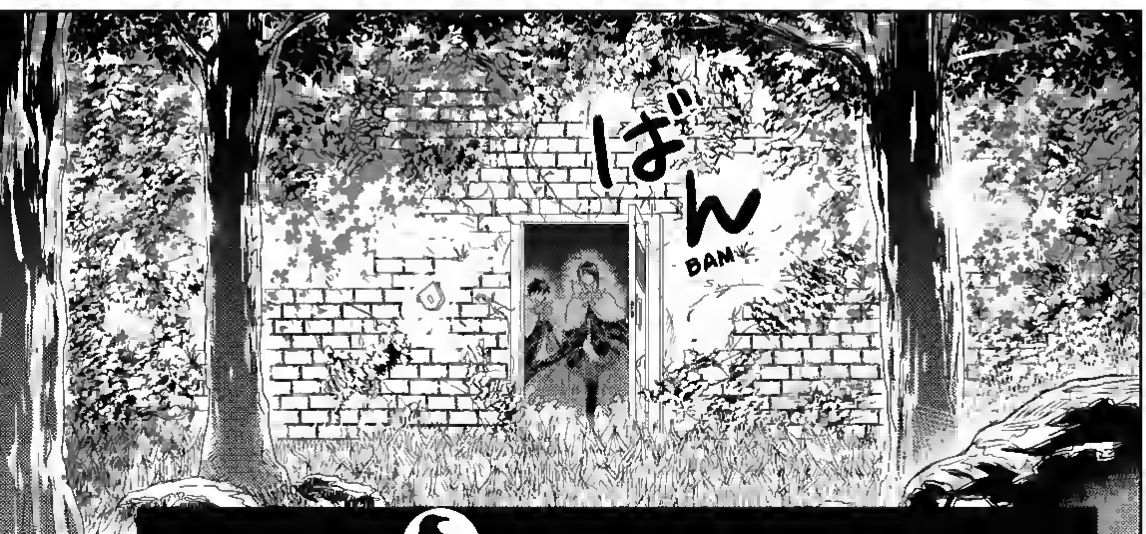
Worries

I-I'M FINE.
You don't look well. Are you tired?
SIGH
はぁ…
Rinon said she'd kill me if I left that room..

Witchcraft Works

That took forever... It felt like we were walking for ages.
Finally, the exit's in sight.
It's past five right now, so we might've walked for two hours.
KA-THOONK
ガーン
KA-THOONK
ガーン


It's connected to the hills behind the school.
This is a separate route. It's a detour, but it's safe. No one will be using it.
They took you to that room from the courtyard, right?



CHAPTER 19 Takamiya and the Fight Against Weekend: 2

バタバタ
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
バタバタ
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
Th—
The whole town...
OOOO
WHOOOOOSH

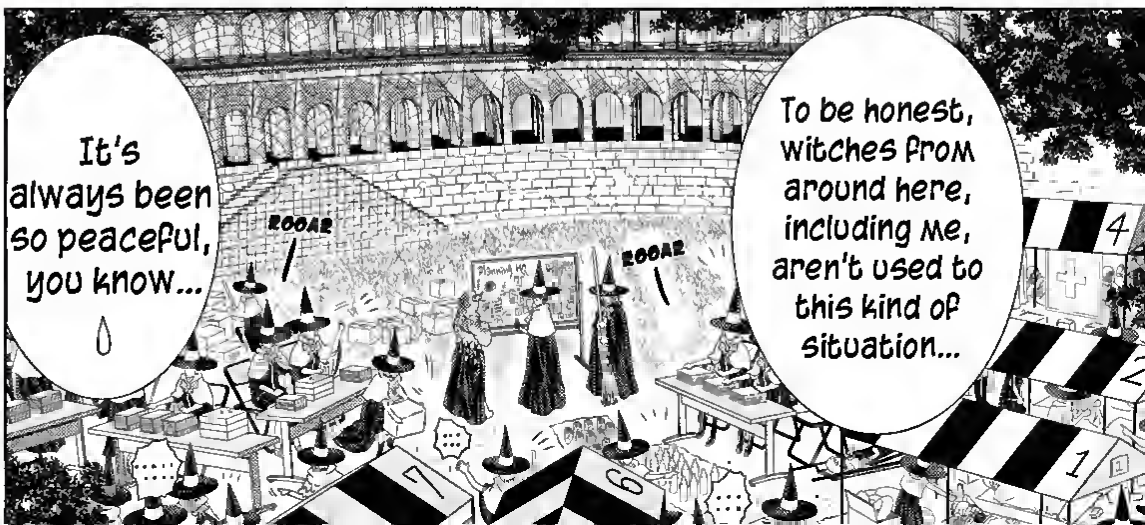
バタバタ
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
WHOOOOOSH

バタバタ
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

Th—
The whole town...
oooo

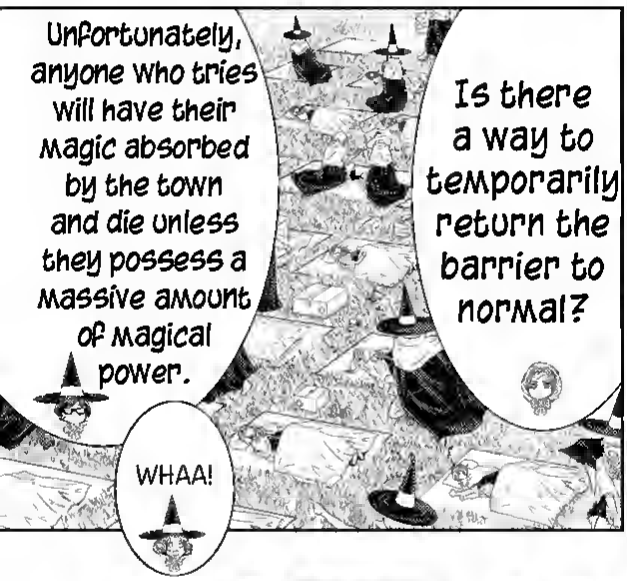
Planning HQ
Location Unit
Magic Square!
District A Block
1.
2.
3.
While civilian casualties were kept to zero due to the "Contract with the Town," the workshop head has fallen into the enemy's hands. Many witches on our side were affected by the explosion and are now missing.
Today at 10 AM, a Magic Square placed by a Tower Witch was activated in sewer #3 of the Mikazuki District, causing a town-wide explosion.

Planning HQ
We've asked neighboring cities for help, but we shouldn't count on anything.
Aid from headquarters will take a few days to arrive.
And the request for help?
The barrier only protects normal citizens, not witches.
The able-bodied are currently on rescue duty...


It's always been so peaceful, you know...
ROOAR
ROOAR
To be honest, witches from around here, including me, aren't used to this kind of situation...
4
1

How long do you think it will take until the Chairwoman returns?
We know what our enemies want. As long as we can keep him safe...
Hmm...
FLAP FLAP
CHATTER
カヤカヤ

ROOAR
But we're in a bad situation.
clear a path!
Workshop Witches can't use our magic without the barrier.
The current order is to flee if an enemy is found during a rescue mission.


Unfortunately, anyone who tries will have their magic absorbed by the town and die unless they possess a massive amount of magical power.
Is there a way to temporarily return the barrier to normal?
WHAA!

Let's regain our composure and wait for our opportunity.
Okaaay!
ZAKK
ROOAR
This location is safe. Tower Witches can't enter it.

ゴ
ROOOOOAR

Ka—
Kagari.
oooo
...

Don't worry. They're all right, including your mother.
That's right.
Mom isn't at work today.
What's going on? It looks like something terrible has happened to the town...
oo

DID THOSE TOWER WITCHES DO THIS BECAUSE THEY'RE AFTER ME?!
GRAB
oo
...HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?! IS THIS... ALL MY FAULT?!

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
That's right.
IS IT MY FAULT...
THAT ALL THIS HAP-PENED?!

Take a deep breath, Takamiya. This isn't the time to be depressed. There's somewhere we need to go.
HA AH
HA AH
FLUTTER
Wh-
Why... Why did this...
Why?

People might be dead!! Our entire city was destroyed !!!
Can't you see what's hap-pened?! This is terrible !!
How are you able to stay calm at a time like this ?!

Didn't you heal me when I was petrified by Medusa?
But think back.
Yes, it is your fault that the town was destroyed, so I can understand how you feel.
What did I just tell you? Everyone's all right. No one is dead yet.
As long as we do what we need to do, no one else is going to get hurt.

What were you prepared for when you saved me?

...
FLUTTER
バタ
バタ
FLUTTER
バタ
FLUTTER
GRRR!

I'm sorry I got unsettled there. What do I need to do?

Come with me.

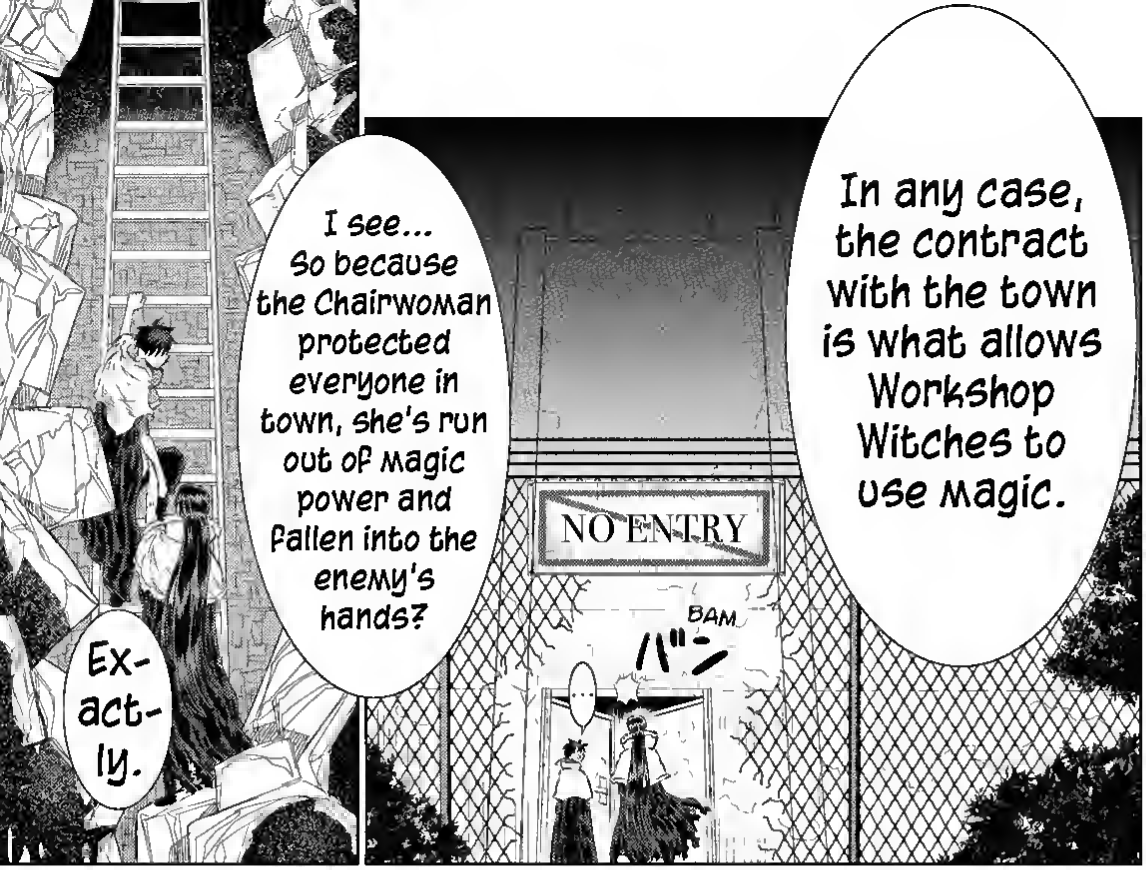
Tower Witches can't enter that place, so they're not in immediate danger.
So they must know about that courtyard? Is everyone okay?!
!
The enemy is going to try to break into the Workshop. I want to get to where we need to go before then.

...This really is a terrible scene, though.
It's like the end of the world...

More importantly, the sun is setting.
Let's hurry.
Okay.

Be careful. While the robe's power is making your body lighter, it's still dangerous if you fall.
Do we have to go this way?

Oh yeah. You said that you can't use magic right now, but... what do you mean by that?
It's an old Workshop custom.
Workshop Witches all have a representative who makes a contract with the town.
That contract is what creates a barrier.
And that barrier creates a system where if a normal human is about to be harmed by magic, the town protects them in exchange for magical power taken from the contracted witch.
It seems to be unusual for a town to be operating under this custom during a time of peace like the one we're living in, but...
there were a lot of people who were getting hurt before my mother was inaugurated as the head of the Workshop.

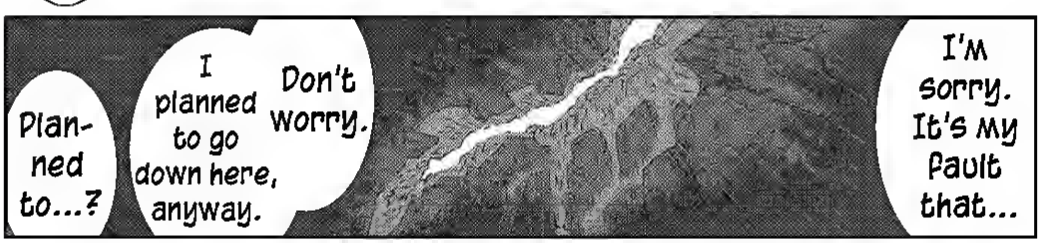

Ex-act-ly.
I see... So because the Chairwoman protected everyone in town, she's run out of magic power and fallen into the enemy's hands?
NO ENTRY
BAM
In any case, the contract with the town is what allows Workshop Witches to use magic.

we're going down there?
...
With the contracted witch gone, the town is still in ruins. Once the contract is restored, though, these buildings will begin to automatically repair themselves, and the town will return to normal.
They've been isolated in a safe place.
Where did everyone that was saved go?

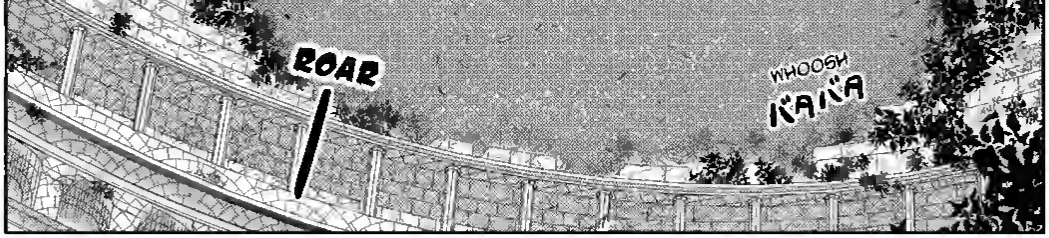
ぐら
WOBBLE
Watch your step there, Takamiya ...
Eek!
Once that happens, the town will make it seem as though nothing had happened.
AAHH !!
BRKRAK
ボコッ
ばっ
BAM
Taka-Miya!
AAAAAAGGH!!

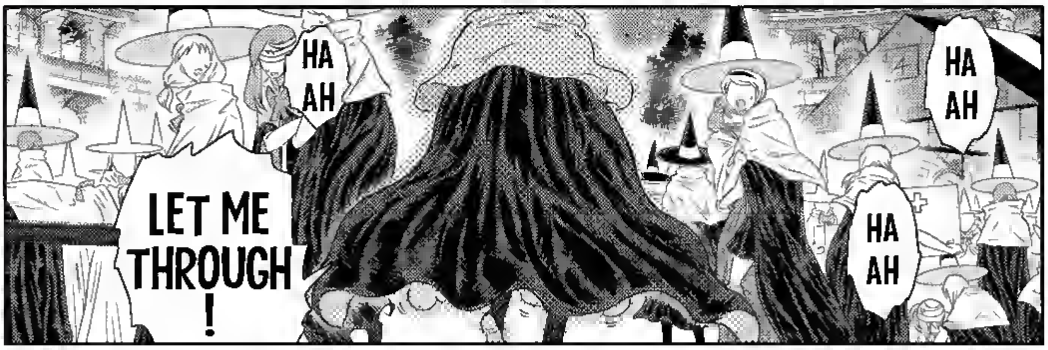
Hold on to me tight!
GRAB
ボフッ
BWOOF

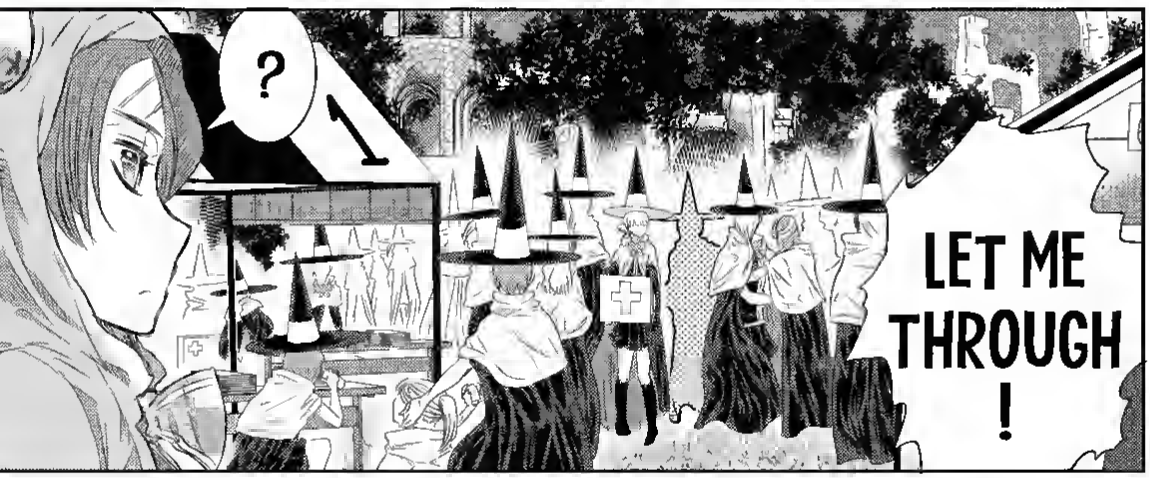
Ugh ...
むく
TWITCH
Are you all right, Kagari?
Yes. What about you, Takamiya?
I'm fine.


I'm sorry. It's my fault that...
Don't worry.
I planned to go down here, anyway.
Planned to...?

KOFF
ケホ
ケホ
KOFF
Kagari, do you think you can tell me...
Where we're actually going?
POOF
POOF


ROAR
WHOOSH
KAKA


HA AH
HA AH
HA AH
LET ME THROUGH !


?
LET ME THROUGH !

Planning HQ
I have ...a mes- sage for you.
Miss Rinon...

You've got thirty minutes ...
FSSHT ファサ…
Br-bring him... to the school yard.
チッ TIK
So, what will you do?
I may not be able to enter that place,
but that doesn't apply to these girls.

Br-bring him... to the school yard.
FSSHT
ファサ…
チッ TIK

チッ TIK

I may not be able to enter that place,
but that doesn't apply to these girls.
チッ TIK

You've got thirty minutes ...
So, what will you do?

Never seen her before.
A blonde... red riding hood.
A Tower Witch.
in the school yard
UM...
NIGHTSCOOP
カニシ
KA-SHIK
There's something wrapped around them...
Surrounded by... Workshop Witches.
NIGHTSCOOP
They're bombs.
Damn ...
You're the only ones who can use magic right now.
So you're going to earn your rent money!
PANT !!
PANT !!
...What are you going to try to make us do?

Yes. That's where we're headed.
Does that mean the job you need me to do is...
To where the contract is made?
...Well, that doesn't matter now. I guess I was right to lie here in hiding.
ポッ ポッ POOF POOF
Dear Me...
ZAKK
I believe Miss Weekend went to the school in order to get you two. So why are you here?

They've even discovered this place.
I am Gibraltar, the Tower witch!!
Here I come !!
SHRRRRRRRR
Get back, Takamiya!

CHAPTER 20 Takamiya and the Fight Against Weekend: 3

HERE I COME !!!
I AM GIBRALTAR, THE TOWER WITCH !!
Get back, Taka-Miya!

I AM GIBRALTAR, THE TOWER WITCH !!
Get back, Taka-Miya!

HERE I COME !!!

HUH ?
がっ
GRRP
ばっ
BAM
WH OO AA!
GRRRSH

BOOOM
Kagari!

ドーン
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
Huh?
It's stuck!
WHA?
ZBBPT
ズボ
I NEED TO SAVE HER.
BAM
ばっ
OH NO.
ドーン
BOOM
BOOM
DAMN!
ドーン
BOOM
BOOM
...

GRASP
Hmph. Utterly boring. How did you plan to get past me without being able to use your magic?
...
Whatever. I don't find joy in tormenting my enemies.
KLINK
KLINK

Say goodbye!
GWOOSH
ぐるん
TWIRL
BSSH
THUNK
とん
ばっ
BAM

ダッ
DASH
!
GSH
GSH
Stop this useless strug-gling!
FWOOSH
ヒィッ
You can fight all you want, but it won't make a differ-en—
たw
THP
たw
THP

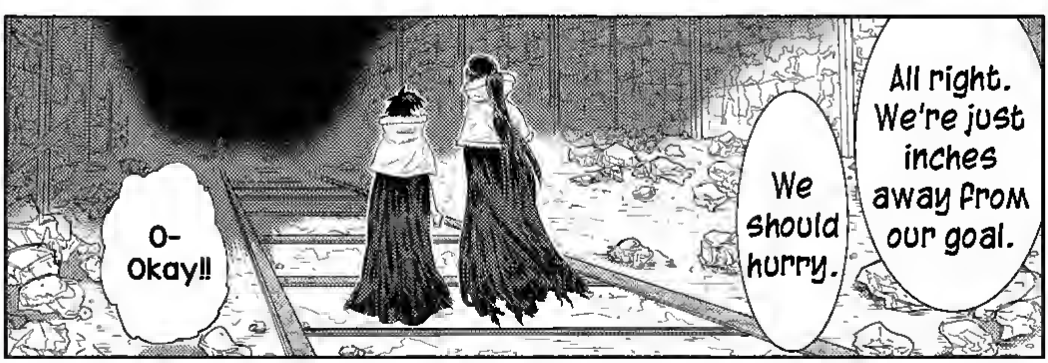
ボコ
BO-
KRAK

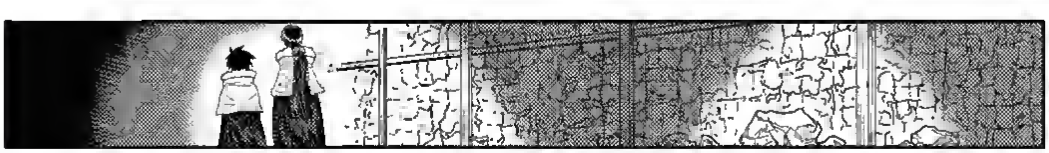
BEI-
KREIK

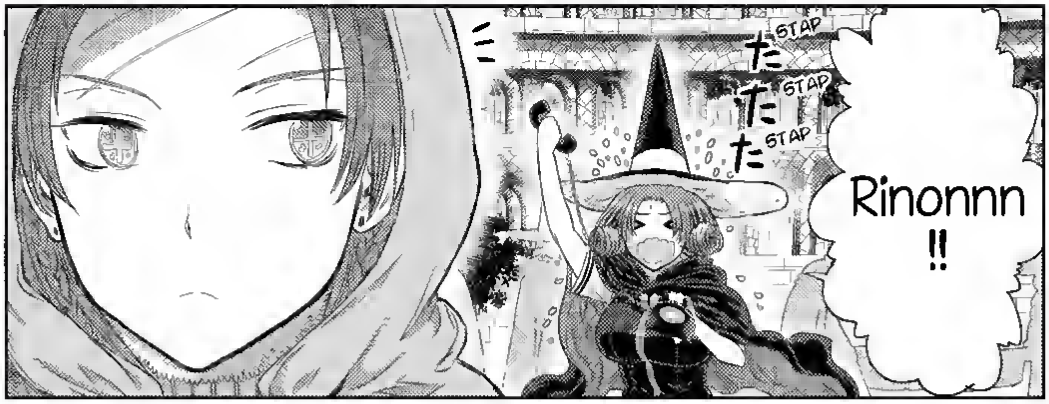
ズドドド

That was just a normal flying knee ...
...?
WHAT ?!
ばん
BAM
Aw—
Awesome, Kagari!
What kind of magic was that ?!
STPP
STPP
Magic ?
That's right... You...
カラ
KRATTLE
You shouldn't be able to use magic... How?
Are you okay, Takamiya?
ズボ
ZBBPT
Thanks.
KLUNK
ガクリ
...
Absurd...
No regrets.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
I used to fight those kinds of things all the time...
Grrrrr...
I say witches must be strong even without magic at their disposal!
You won't be getting anything to eat until you can defeat these with your bare hands!
天路暦程
THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
QUIVER
Better not ask about the details.


All right. We're just inches away from our goal.
We should hurry.
O-Okay!!



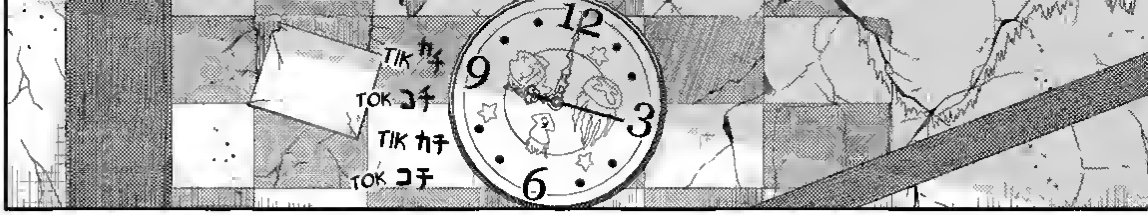

Rinonnn !!
たたたた

!
Rinon, I've had a look. Please listen.
How is it?
unlike that Magic Square they used... to blow up the town. There's no blood pact, either.
Even the least talented of witches could remove these... so long as they were able to cast dispel.
They're very plainly rigged... There aren't any tricks or traps...
Yes.
PHEW
Hm?
PEERRING
PERRRING
But that would require using Magic, eh?

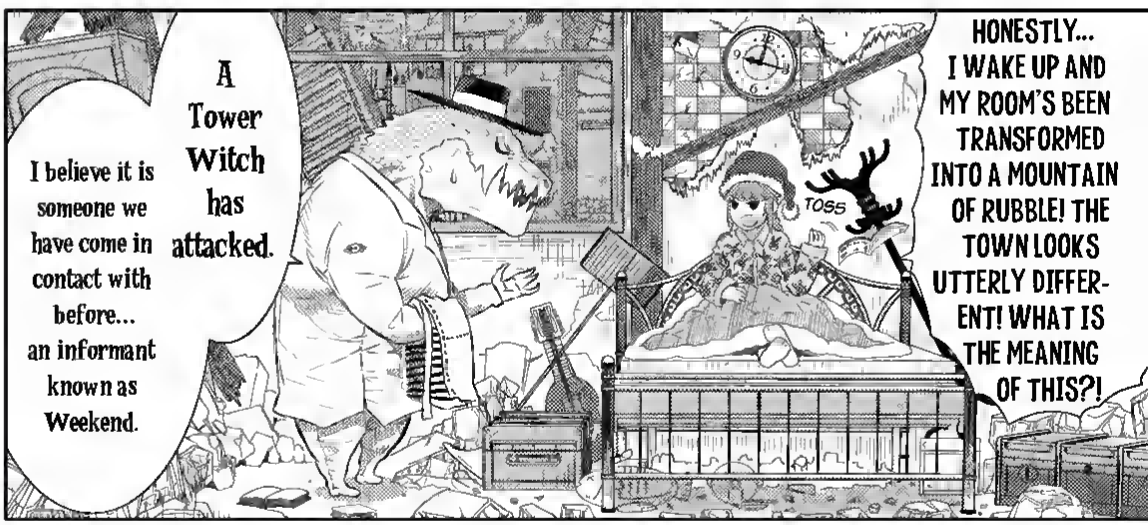
I-I am part of the Kashiwagi team. We were attacked while rescuing a girl trapped under rubble on Second Avenue...
There are... eight of us.
We were attacked by a woman... in a red coat and blonde hair. She... threatened me...
She said... "If you disobey me, your friends will die."

18 minutes left
What should we do, Rinon?
They're not picking uuup!!
...

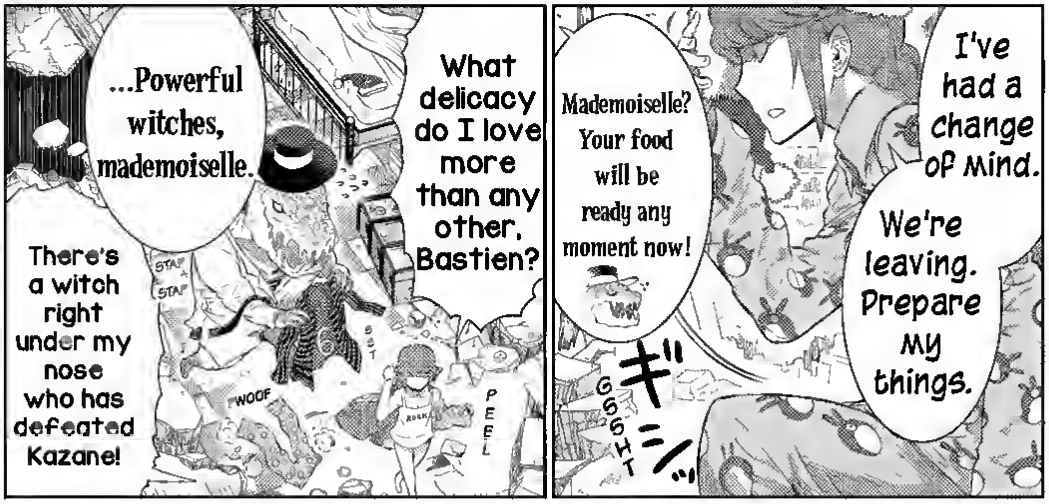
Kasumi's team has reported that a blonde woman in a red riding hood is in the school yard with seven hostages.
WHISPER WHISPER

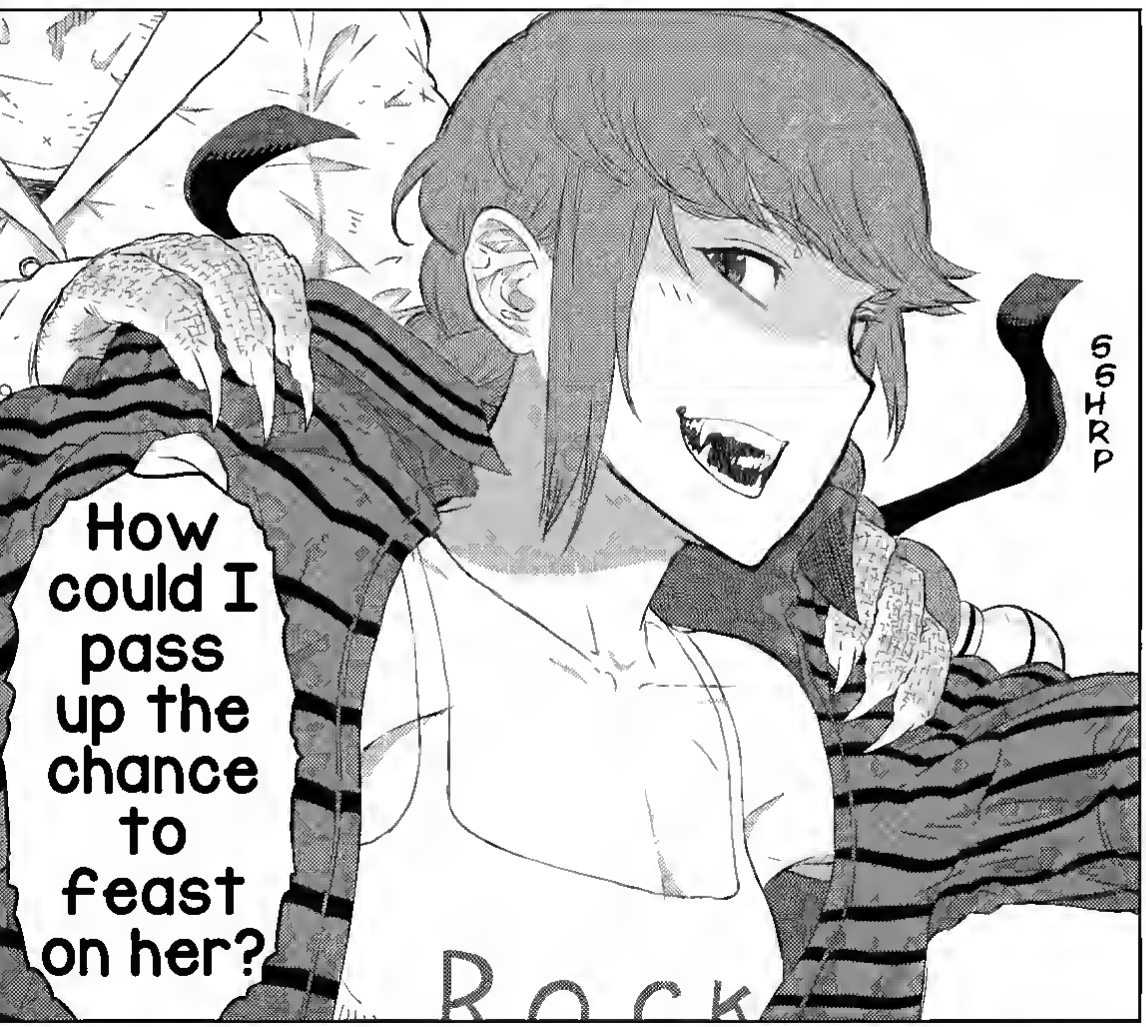

TIK カチ
TOK コチ
TIK カチ
TOK コチ

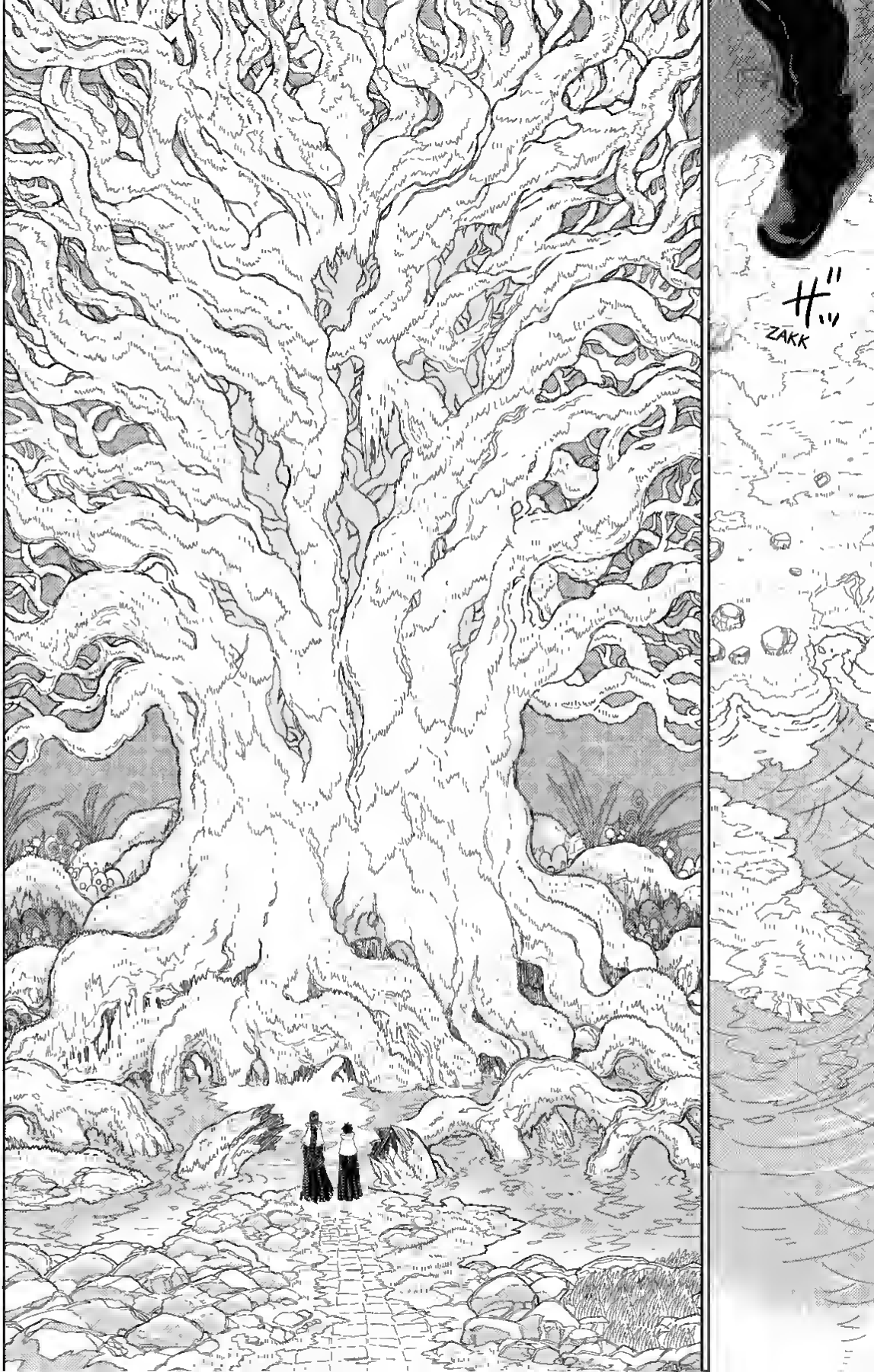
I'VE JUST AWAKENED AND I'M FAMISHED! CHOP CHOP!
Mademoiselle! Please wait 18 more minutes!
Is dinner ready yet?
Say Bastien?
むす
POUT
MONTHLY Witches' Revel


A Tower Witch has attacked.
I believe it is someone we have come in contact with before... an informant known as Weekend.
TOSS
HONESTLY... I WAKE UP AND MY ROOM'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A MOUNTAIN OF RUBBLE! THE TOWN LOOKS UTTERLY DIFFERENT! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

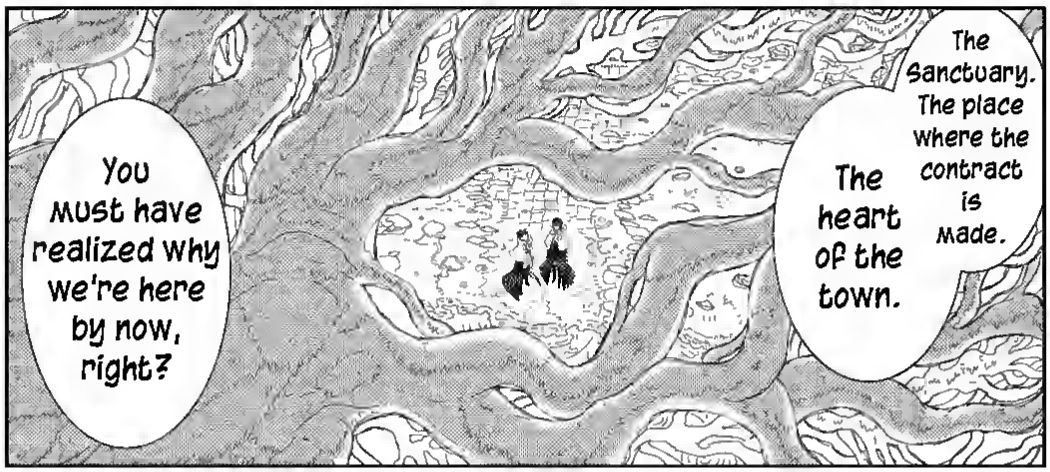
I see. Then this sorry state of affairs must have come about because she managed to defeat Kazane...
Yes.
Ah. The witch who approached us in hopes of using me.


...Powerful witches, mademoiselle.
What delicacy do I love more than any other, Bastien?
There's a witch right under my nose who has defeated Kazane!
STAP STAP
WOOF
SST
PEEL
Mademoiselle? Your food will be ready any moment now!
GSSHT
I've had a change of mind.
We're leaving. Prepare my things.


How could I pass up the chance to feast on her?
SSHRP
Rock


ZAKK

So this is it.
We're here.

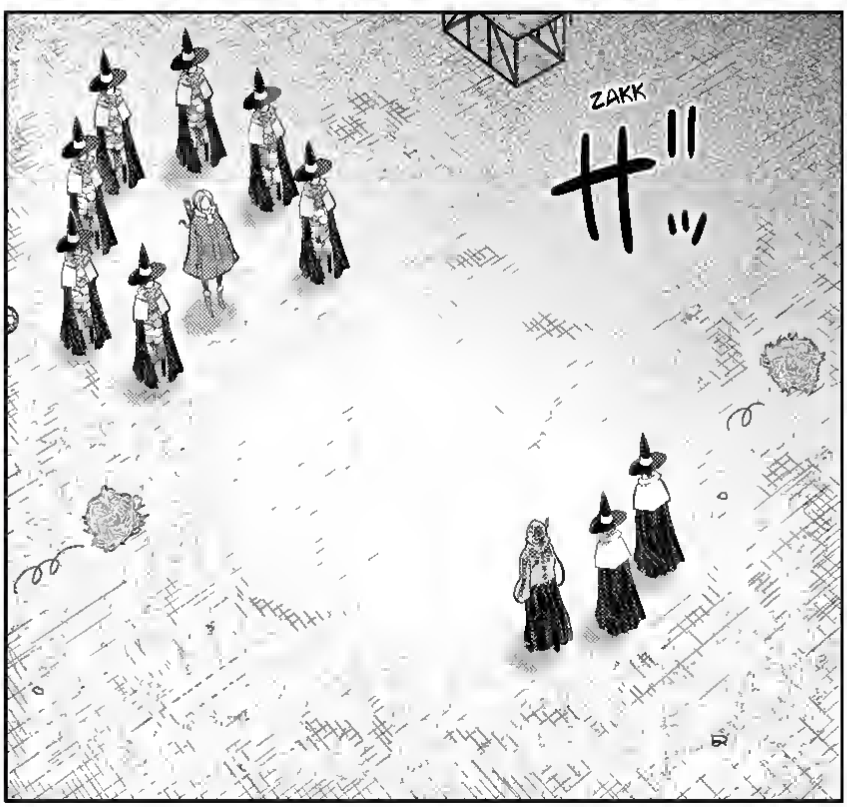

You must have realized why we're here by now, right?
The heart of the town.
The Sanctuary. The place where the contract is made.

...So I can make a contract with the town?

3-A

Are you all right?
Yes...
...

ふら
WOOBLE
Unh...
Whoa there.
SST

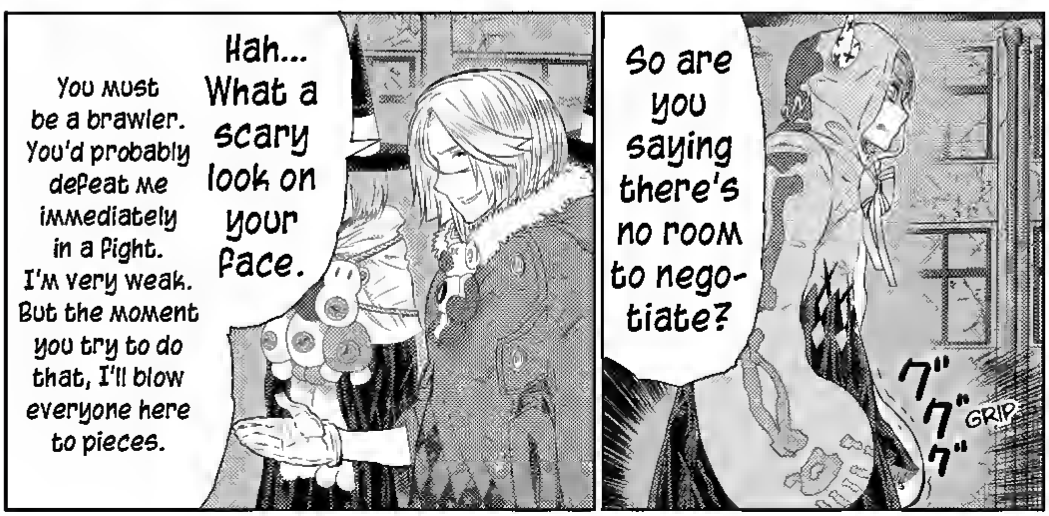

ZAKK

We're about to face the enemy.
Stay strong ...

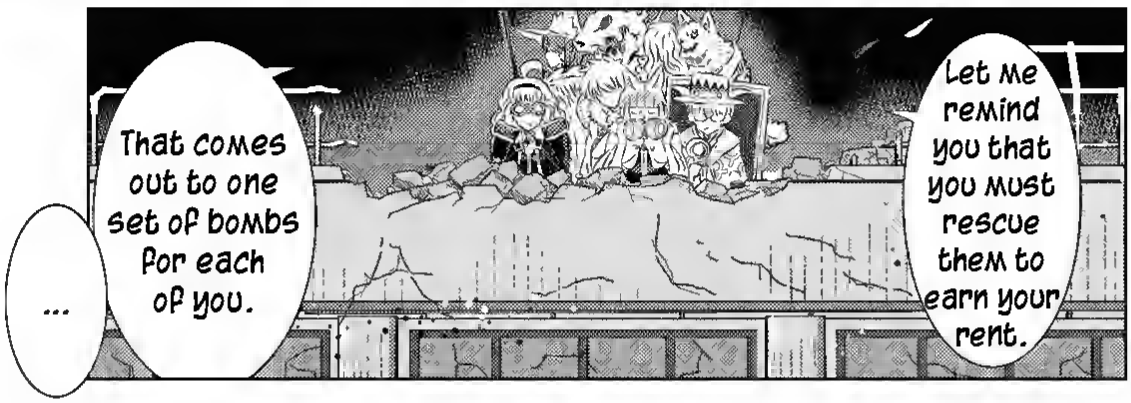
ヒュオオ
WHOO
オオオ
OOSH
...
Good evening, ladies of the Work-Shop!
You have 12 minutes and 5 seconds left!
I'M not seeing the boy with you.
REGARDING THAT, WE HAVE COME TO NEGOTIATE!
WE ASK FOR A LITTLE MORE TIME!

?!
You don't seem to understand who you're dealing with!
More time... is it?

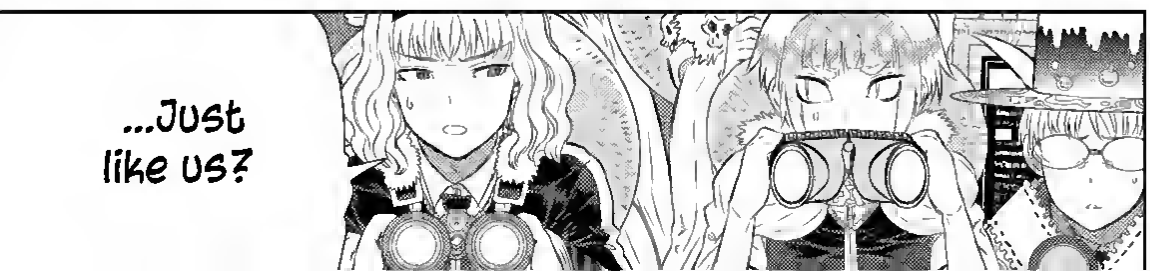
Every five minutes after that, I'll do the same to one of the girls around me! We're done talking here!
7 minutes and 13 seconds left... And I will detonate her as I stated!


You must be a brawler. You'd probably defeat me immediately in a fight. I'm very weak. But the moment you try to do that, I'll blow everyone here to pieces.
Hah... What a scary look on your face.
So are you saying there's no room to negotiate?
GRIP

...
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN HURRY AND BRING ME THE BOY—
ZZT...
AND EVEN IF YOU DID DEFEAT ME, THAT WON'T STOP THESE BOMBS.
ZZT...


...
That comes out to one set of bombs for each of you.
Let me remind you that you must rescue them to earn your rent.

She's watching this go down from somewhere else, just like us!
...In that case, where's the witch who planted them?
So there's a separate witch who set the bombs?
That would make the stuff about the bombs not stopping even if she's defeated make sense.
Could that blonde just be a negotiator?
...She described herself as weak.


...Just like us?

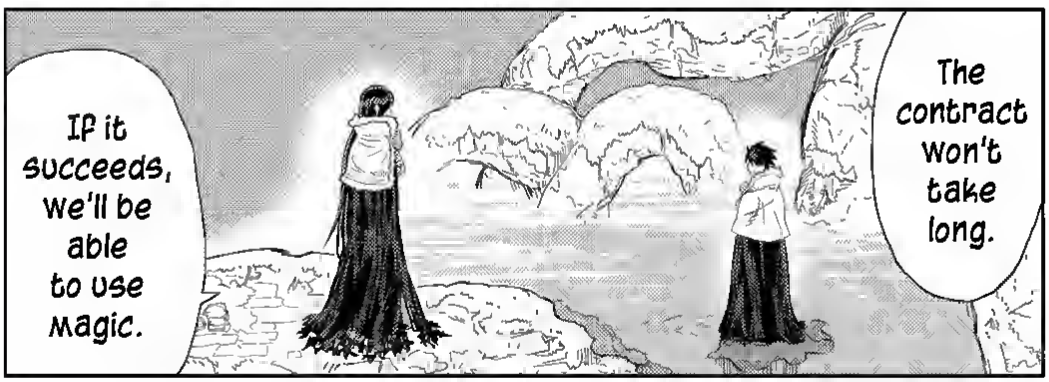
You keep watching, Furry!
The rest of you, help me find the detonator !!
Pant Pant
SNAPPT
That's it! They're in the building!!
BAM

We'll probably all die if that happens.
But I want to make her pay, too.
I may not be able to use magic, but I can still smash her teeth in.

So I'm going to die?
ずぃ
Kasumi's group seems to have come up with a plan. 7 minutes left.
If they can't stop the bombs,
we both attack her the moment of the explosion.

SPLAPP
ちゃぷ

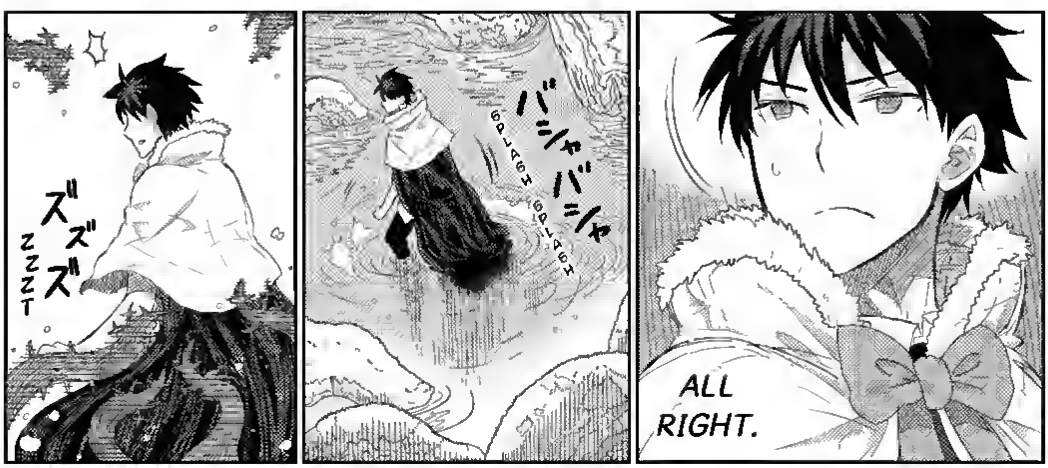
You'll suddenly feel extremely weak, but you can't go unconscious.
Keep going... When you make the contract, you'll feel a huge burden being placed on your body. It will be your magical power being sucked from inside of you.


If it succeeds, we'll be able to use magic.
The contract won't take long.

Whether or not you can do it isn't something for you to decide.
But ...
You don't need to worry. You can do it.
Wh- what if... I can't do it?

It's some-thing I decide.

...
THAT...
REALLY DOES SOUND LIKE SOMETHING SHE'D SAY.

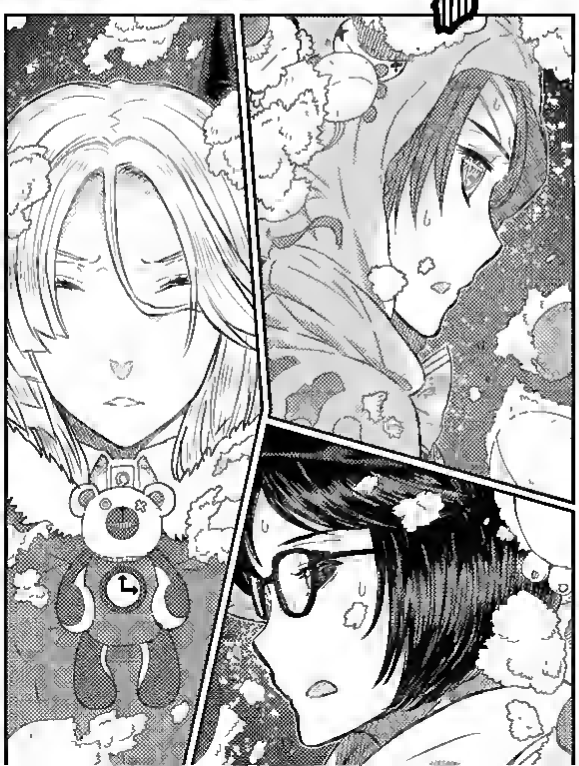

ズズズ
ZZZT
バシャバシャ
ALL RIGHT.

BOOM
?!
ZZZZ
ZZZT
BWOOSH

I CAN'T FIND HERRRR!!
9
8
Is he still not coming?
Just a few seconds left!
TIK チ..
TIK チ..
TIK チ..
WEEKEND
We make our move at zero.
It looks like Kasumi won't make it in time.
CHAKKT
ちゃき
1
2
4
5
Time's up !!!

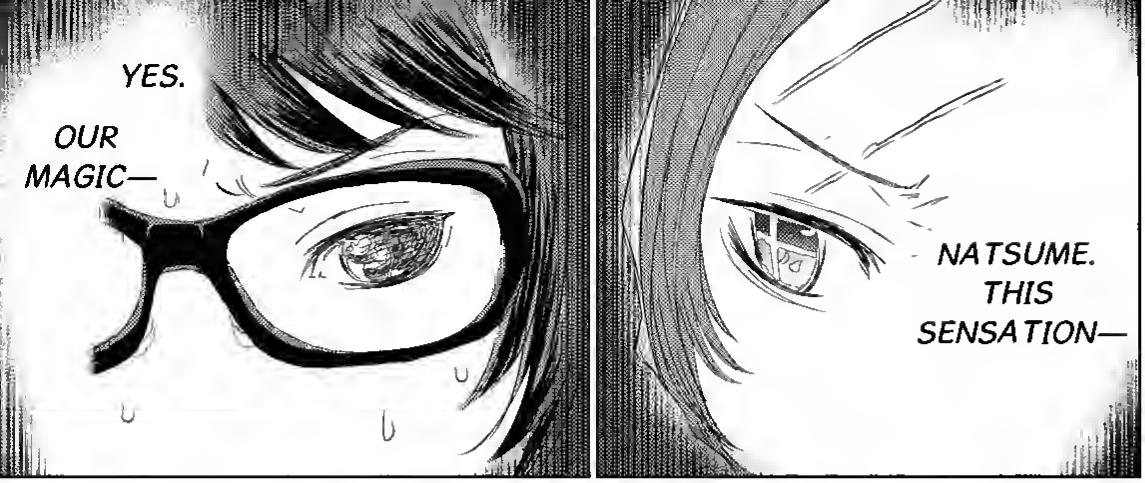
パン
POP
パン
POP
パン
POP
パン
POP
パン
POP
Let's start with ...
?!
BSSSHT

BOOF
ボト
BOOF
ボト
Dis-pelled ?!
BOOF
BOOF
ボトボト



THERE, THAT'S RENT!

You tricked me?!
BAM
ばっ
TSK.
Nat-sume!
だっ
DASH
SO SHE HAS IT!
ALL RIGHT!
You saved us, Furry Ear!
SHE MAY LEAVE ONE ALIVE AS INSURANCE, BUT WE WON'T REACH THE OTHER SIX IN TIME
SHE'S GOING TO PRESS IT. I DOUBT WE HAVE ANY OTHER TOWER WITCHES ON OUR SIDE WHO CAN DISPEL THE BOMBS.
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT IT LATER... FOR NOW, LET'S GET HER!
ゾワ
SHOOM


YES.
OUR MAGIC—
NATSUME. THIS SENSATION—

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
KA-CHIK

We're saving them all, Natsu-Meeeeee !!
Another change of plans!

All right !

Don't ever Mess
KLONK
with Workshop Witches !!!

Don't ever mess
KLONK
000

With
Workshop
Witches
!!!

CREAK
You... were able to undo all of my bombs at once?
That means you're able to use magic...
and that he... formed a contract!
Now things are starting to get inter-esting!!

The Iron Maiden

All my magic does is turn part of my body into iron, so I still need to keep myself physically strong... It's not a convenient power.
It must be so nice to be strong even without magic, Rinon...

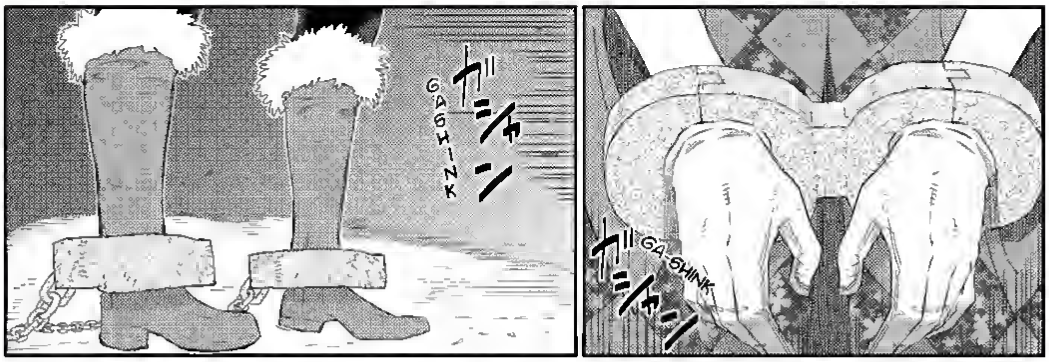
Witchcraft Works

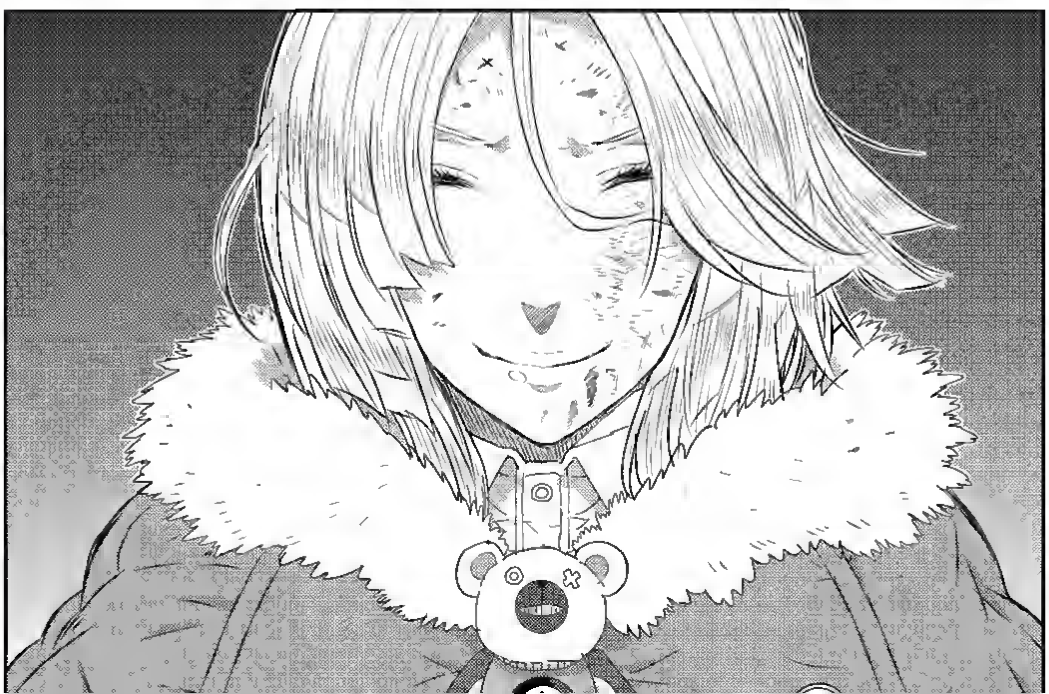
zzz...
すぅ
すぅ

HM
?
WIGGLE
もぞ"

...Kagari
?
...Good
morning,
Takamiya.
BLINK
ぱちぱち
...

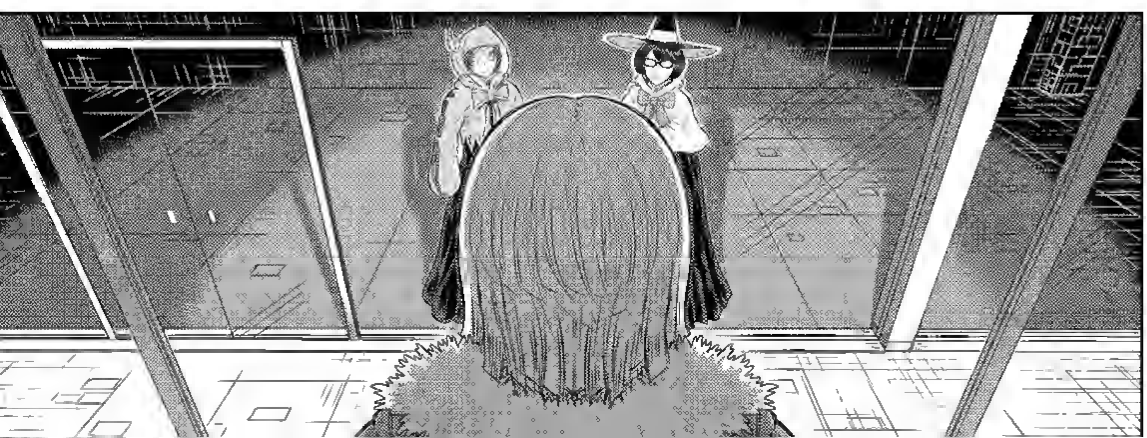
For 3 hours and 10 minutes.
Feel free to sleep until morning. It's still 2 AM.
ACK.
Huh? Was I...
sleeping?
I think you should prioritize getting your strength back.
There's no time to waste...
I can't do that!
...I'm okay.
Let's just return to the Workshop.
I'm worried about Ranon and the others, too.


ガシャン
GA-SHINK
ガシャン
GA-SHINK



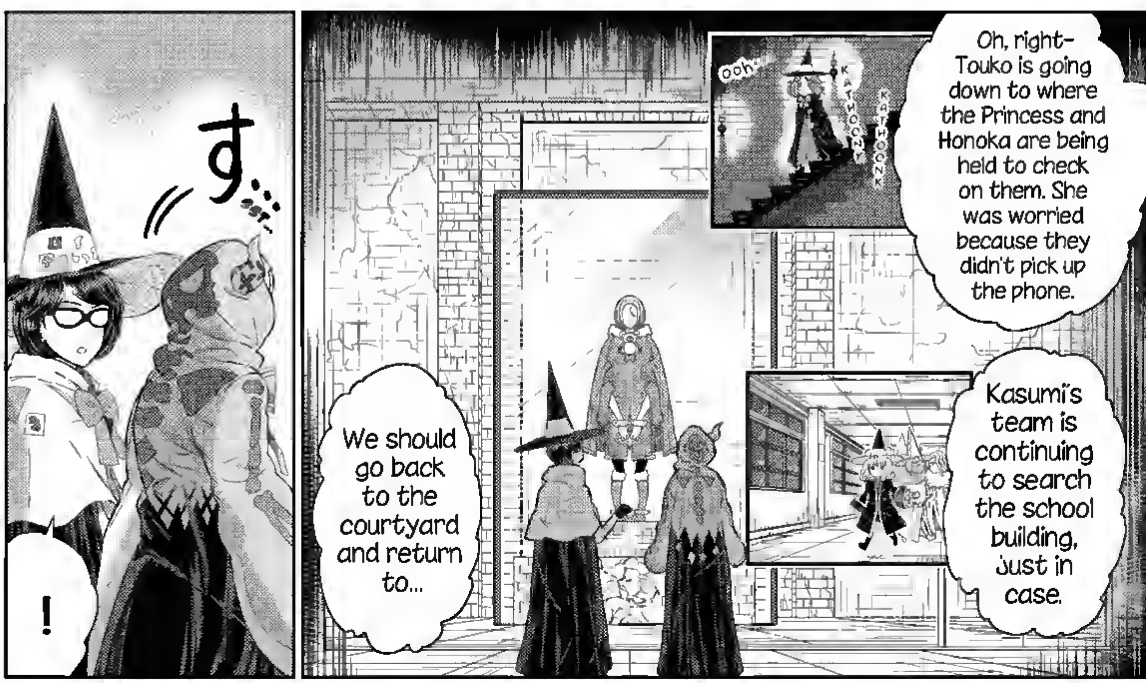
CHAPTER 21 Takamiya and the Fight Against Weekend: 4

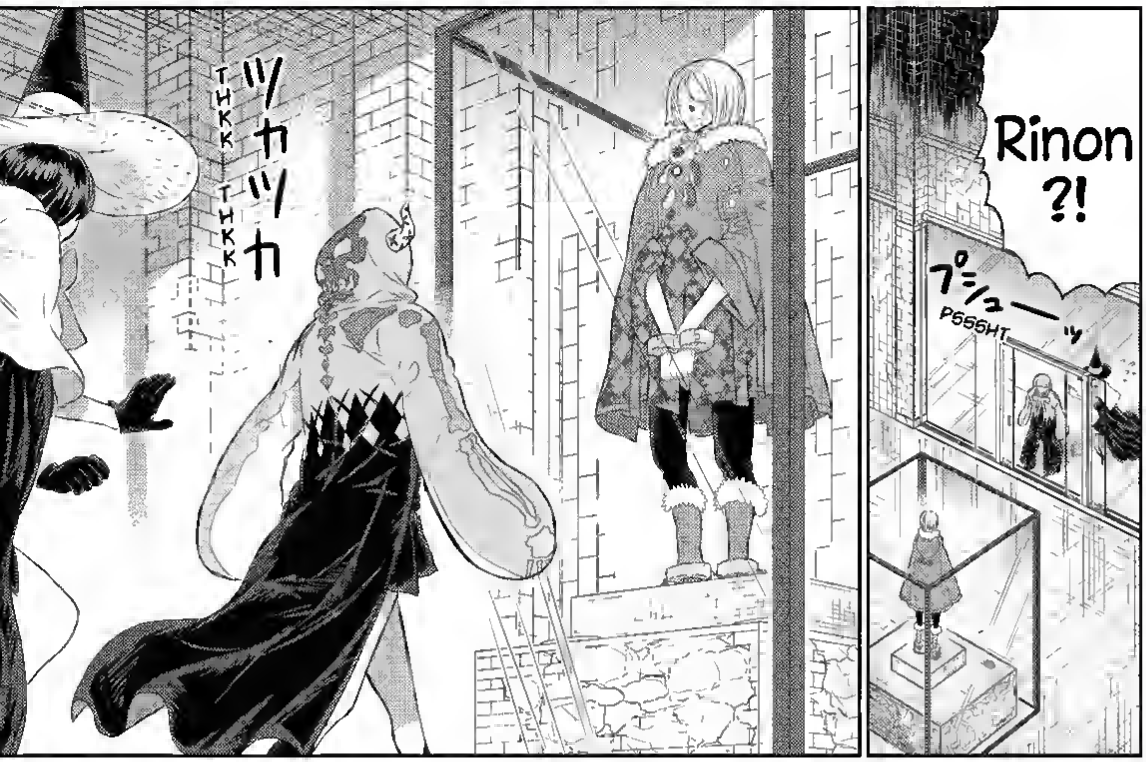
ゴゴゴ…
GRRRNK



We did it, Rinon!
What an amazing feat!

My heart is still pounding! Come on, Rinon! You should be more excited!
THUMP THUMP
...

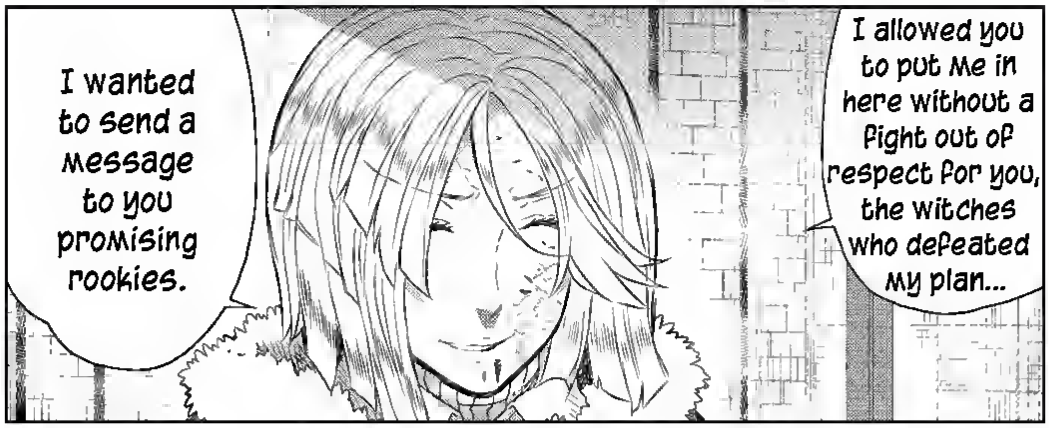

Oh, right- Touko is going down to where the Princess and Honoka are being held to check on them. She was worried because they didn't pick up the phone.
Ooh-
KATHOOK
KATHOOK
Kasumi's team is continuing to search the school building, just in case.
We should go back to the courtyard and return to...
す...
!


THKK THKK
Rinon ?!
P555HT

I have absolutely no interest in your aims or your goals!!
...There's something I would like to tell you.
BSSHT

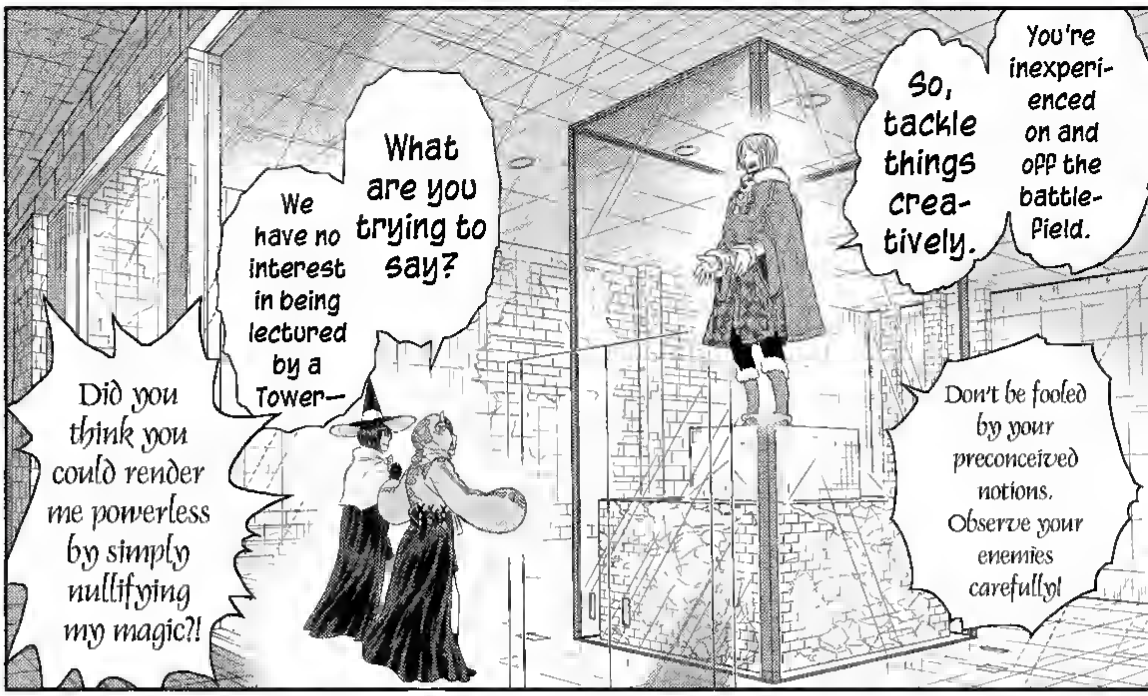
It is impossible for you to escape from here! No matter how many allies you may have, I promise you that I will destroy all of them!!
The Chairwoman will be back soon. So, you're going to stay enclosed inside there until then!
Just keep that in mind!
This cell is made from special glass that nullifies magic! Your shackles prevent you from using magic, as well!

?!
BAM
はっ
Let's go, Natsume!
I did this as a gesture of respect to you!


I wanted to send a message to you promising rookies.
I allowed you to put me in here without a fight out of respect for you, the witches who defeated my plan...

Then why did you go to the trouble of using such caustic language? ...You must be feeling uneasy. You're wondering if things will really be so simple when dealing with a witch who defeated Kazane.
You're in there because you lost to us!!
Without a fight?!
She makes it sound like she was trying to get captured.

You girls are strong. But you're green.
...


You're inexperienced on and off the battlefield.
So, tackle things creatively.
Don't be fooled by your preconceived notions. Observe your enemies carefully!
What are you trying to say?
We have no interest in being lectured by a Tower—
Did you think you could render me powerless by simply nullifying my magic?!

...Let today be a lesson to you.
BSSST
バサ
SNAP

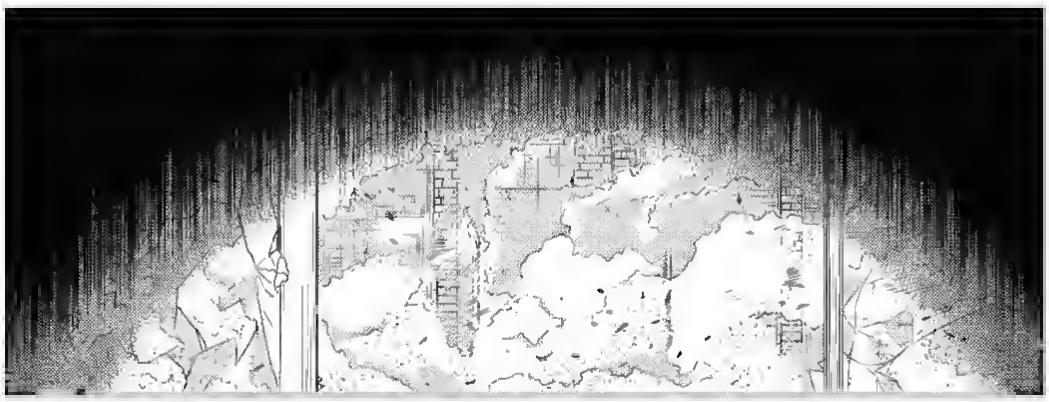
These are plain explo-sives.
KLINK
パラパラ
KLINK
BEEP

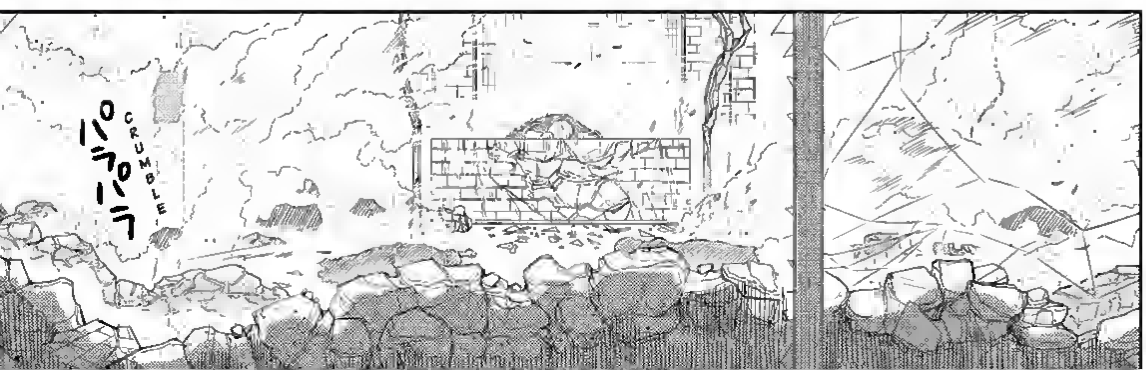
...Shit.

BOOM
ウウウ
WOOO
CRUMBLE
パラパラ
正気
ズズ
ウウ
ZZ
WOOO

Taka-
miya
?!
WHOOF
ふら
UGH..
BAM
ばっ

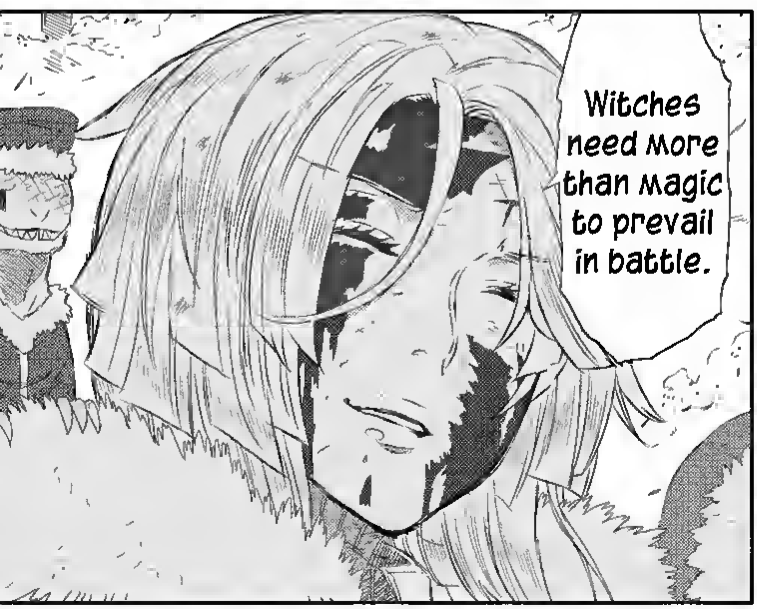
Hang in there.
Just a bit farther and we'll be in an open place where we can use brooms.
... Just now
... some-one...



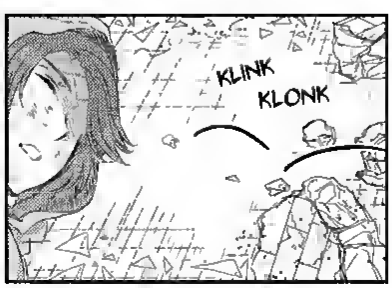

CRUMBLE
パラパラ

...
PU-PU-PU-PU-PU
むくっ
HERK
TWITCH
もぞ
ルルルルルル
GHRRRR
Ha-ah
Ha-ah
カチャカチャ
CHIK
CHIK
SNAP
SNAP
BA-KRAK
TOSS
ドサ
THUD

Very good.
I have arrived for you.
BGGGT


Witches need more than magic to prevail in battle.

PTT


KLINK
KLONK

!!
I know you're watching, Honoka Takamiya!
Your friends are about to die!! So, what will you do now?!

I know you're watching, Honoka Takamiya!
Your friends are about to die!! So, what will you do now?!

Taka-
Miya!

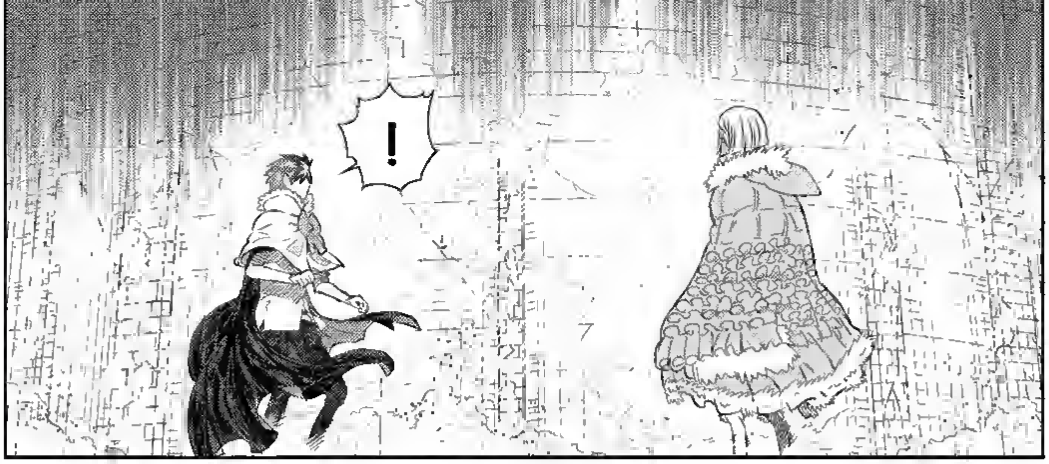
You're seeing something, aren't you?
!

...Kagari.
はっ
AH!
!

Takamiya... Are you...
UGH ...

...
GAH!
ズキ
THROB

Rinon and Natsume ...
Th- they're hurt.
...
It's bad...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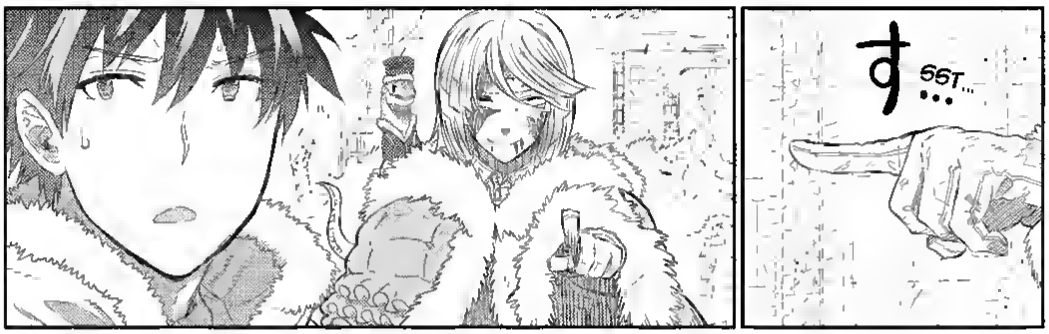
すSST...

ズ ZZT ズ...
Fine, then. This Work-shop...
Two girls aren't enough to move you to act?
is strewn with my children.
6
1

YOU'RE NOT...
?!?
PTT
PTT
PTT
PTT

ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOM

ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOM

ドーン
BOOM
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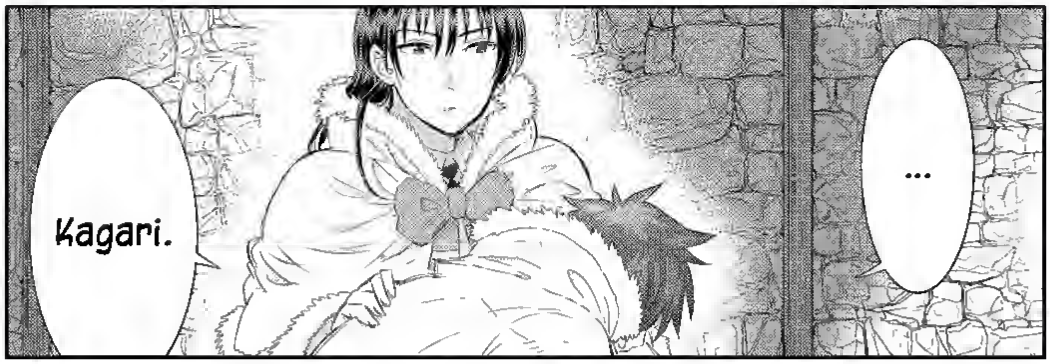
BOOM

AAGH!
GROOAR

Taka-
miya!
—gh.
はっ
AH!
What is she doing ?!

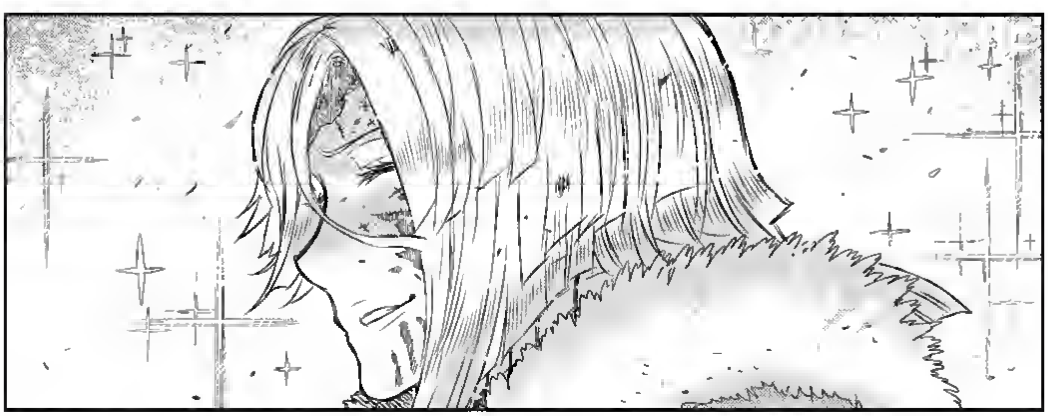

Kagari.
...

Rinon and the others are hurt... We need to help them.

What are you saying, Takamiya? That contract protects regular people. You can't save witches with it.
But remember what you said? I need to do what must be done.

I think that time has come.

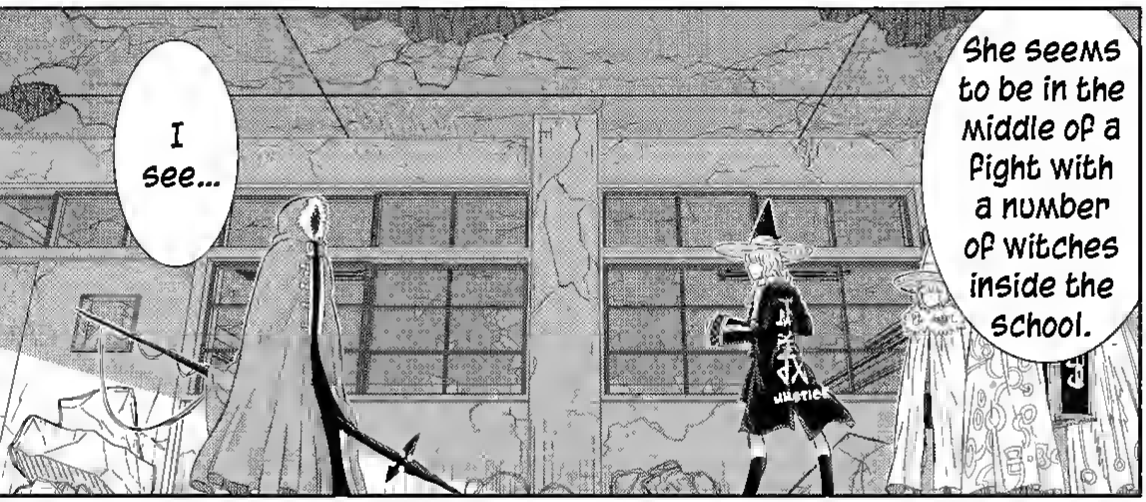
110ア
ア
PHOOOSH
ア
ア
ア
ア



... MMF ...
ニュウ ウ ウ SSHHHH ウ ウ
Yes. That's it.
Turn all to ash, then give it life anew.

That is the power of your Fire Craftwork, Honoka Takamiya!

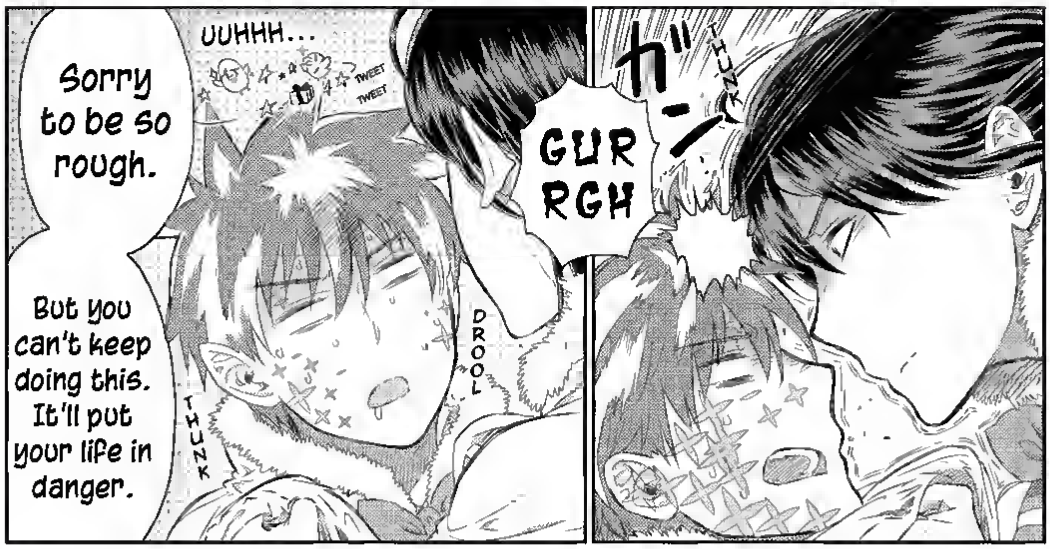
バサッ
BSSST
I don't have any use for this place now.
Let's go.
Aye.
What about Nietz-sche?


She seems to be in the middle of a fight with a number of witches inside the school.
I see...

I'M GOING TO DEFEAT YOU AND RESTORE MY HONOR!
CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

Finished Product
You must be one of her underlings, no?
I discovered you prowling around the area...
Answer me, or I'll style your precious hair into something more befitting the kinds of road warriors you would expect to see lurking in these dystopian ruins they call a town.
Might be too late for that
ZZZTTT
MEF MEF!
RATTLE
RATTLE
UGH... URGH...
ZZT
VVVT
FLUTTER

...So where is your boss?


Sorry to be so rough.
But you can't keep doing this. It'll put your life in danger.
UUHHH...
TWEET
TWEET
DROOL
THUNK
GUR RGH
ガーン
THUNK

KATT
KATT

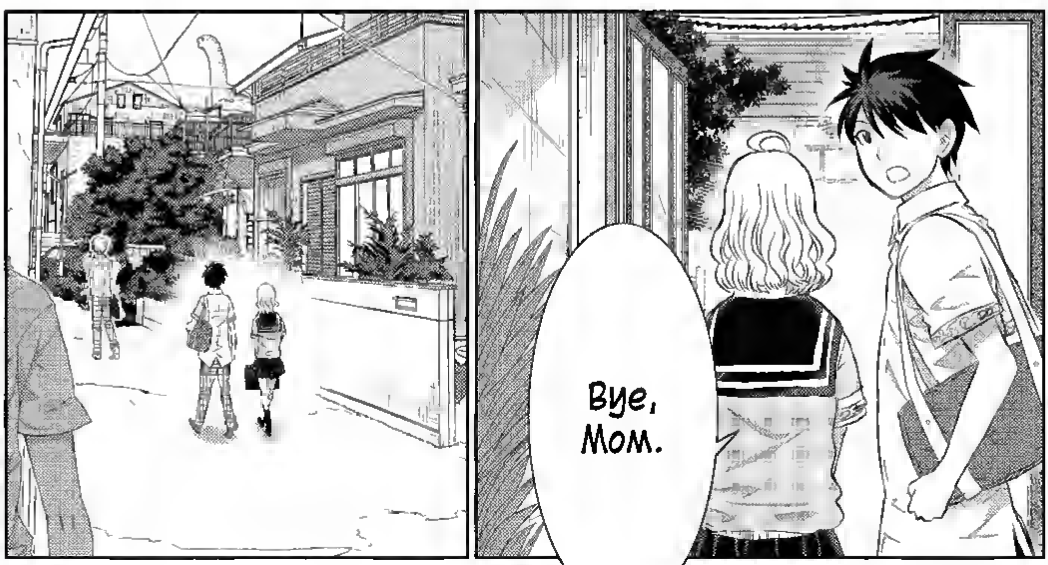
...I'll be taking care of the rest.
ZZSHHH...

The Night Before the Showdown with Kazane

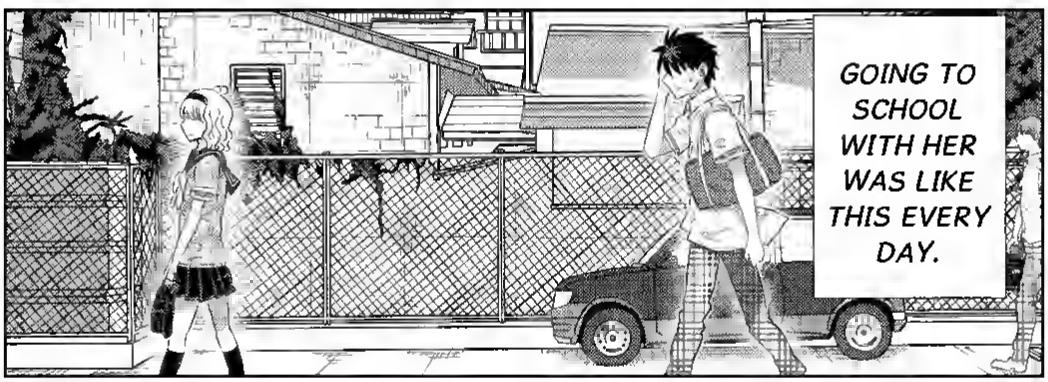
I know you'll be facing Miss Bad End... But if we added any more, you'd be in danger, Miss Weekend!
UNDER-LING
Should we add some?
Don't you think we could use more?
OOH! I can't wait!

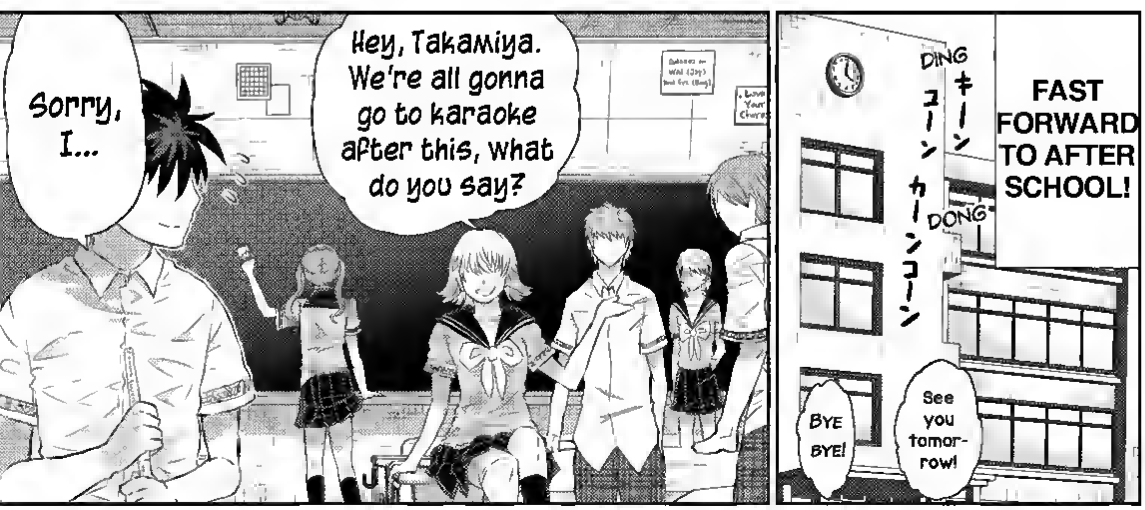
SO JUST BEFORE I MET KAGARI.
チュン TWEET
チュン TWEET
9TH GRADE.
THIS TOOK PLACE BEFORE I ENTERED THE TOUGETSU ACADEMY.

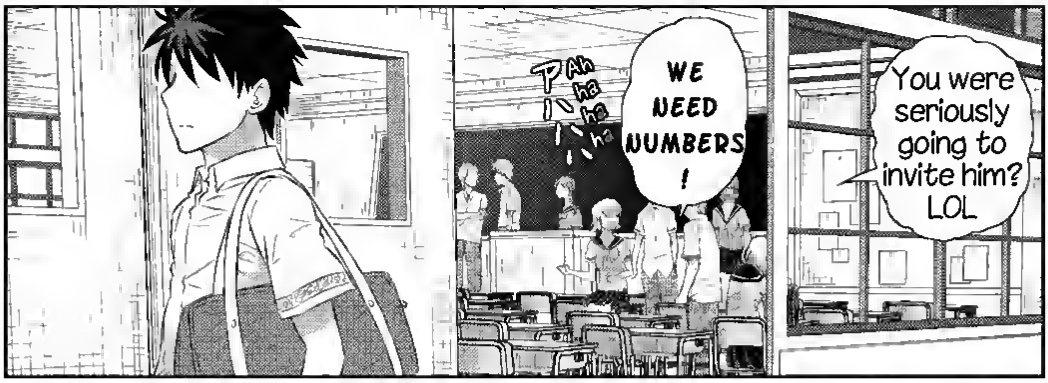
Take care, then!
We're fine.
Not forgetting anything?
Yeah.
You two all set to go?


Bye, Mom.

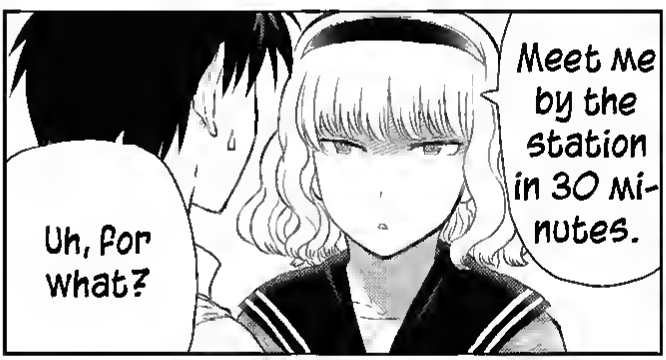
What if one of my classmates sees us? It'd be a pain in the side if people thought I was going out with someone as lame, boring, and useless as you, and having to introduce you as my brother would be annoying, too. How could God do this to me?
S-sorry. You're right.
Hey, Honoka— Could you give me some more space while we're walking?
MUMBLE
Huh?


GOING TO SCHOOL WITH HER WAS LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.


Sorry, I...
Hey, Takamiya. We're all gonna go to karaoke after this, what do you say?
DING キーン コーン カーン コーン DONG
FAST FORWARD TO AFTER SCHOOL!
BYE BYE!
See you tomorrow!


WE NEED NUMBERS!
アハハハハ
You were seriously going to invite him? LOL

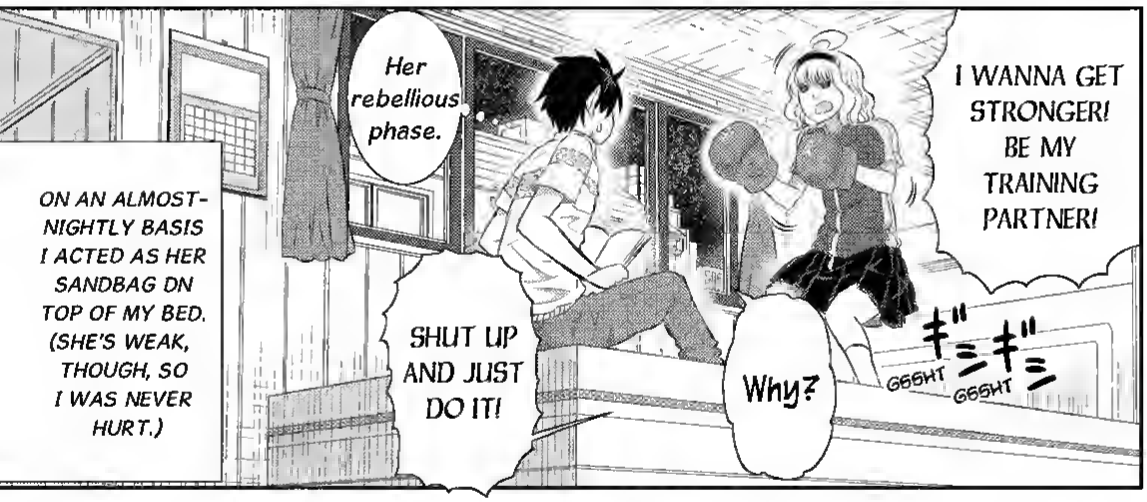
LURCH
ひょこ

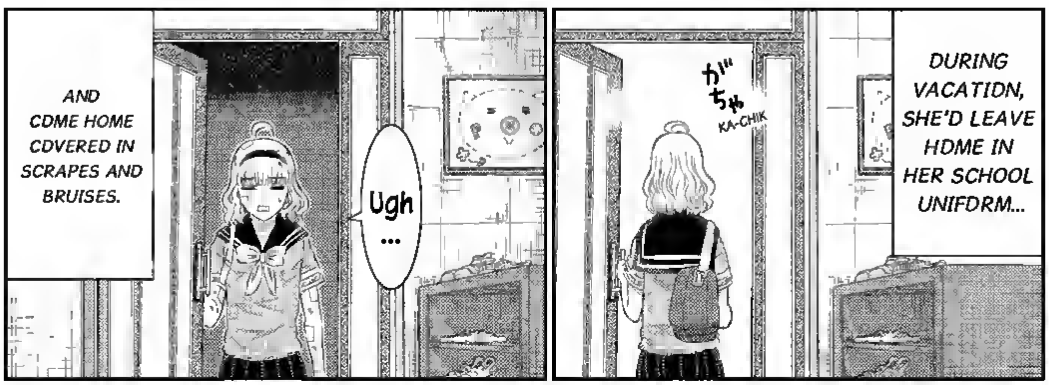

Meet me by the station in 30 minutes.
Uh, for what?

Oh, Kasumi! What a coincidence. On your way home?
...I feel like singing right now.
Huh?

Hey, Kasumi?!
You'd better not be late!
TWIRL

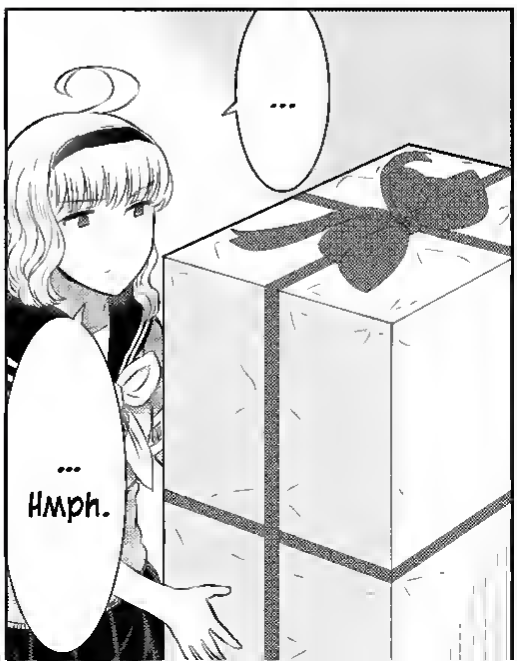
HOME.
You know what's wrong with you, Honoka? You can't use chopsticks right.
Okay, okay...
WHEN WE'RE AT HOME, SHE SPENDS ALL DAY LECTURING ME ABOUT WHAT I DO WRONG.


I WANNA GET STRONGER! BE MY TRAINING PARTNER!
Her rebellious phase.
ON AN ALMOST-NIGHTLY BASIS I ACTED AS HER SANDBAG ON TOP OF MY BED. (SHE'S WEAK, THOUGH, SO I WAS NEVER HURT.)
SHUT UP AND JUST DO IT!
Why?
GGSHT
GGSHT


AND COME HOME COVERED IN SCRAPES AND BRUISES.
Ugh...
KA-CHIK
DURING VACATION, SHE'D LEAVE HOME IN HER SCHOOL UNIFORM...

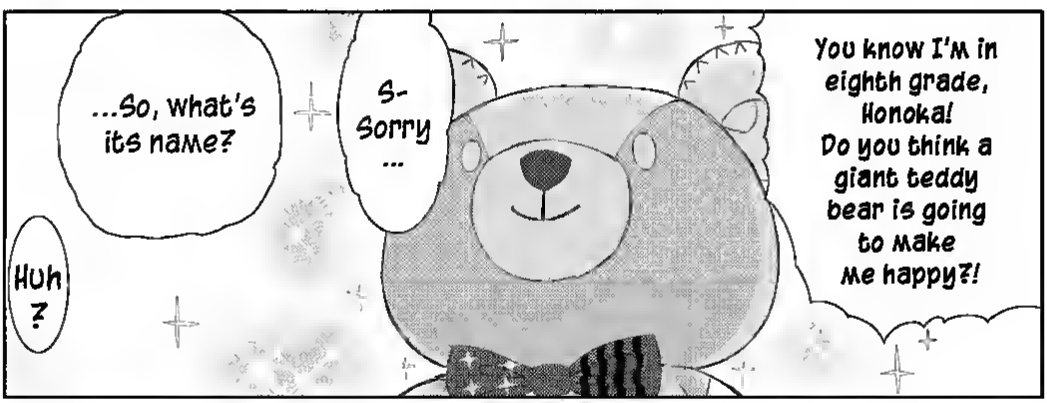
I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN IT WAS, BUT ONE DAY, I ASKED OUT OF CURIOSITY...
Mom, seconds!
It doesn't have anything to do with you.
SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE DOING ANYTHING DANGEROUS, SO I DIDN'T WORRY.
CHOMP
CHOMP
ガリ
ガッ

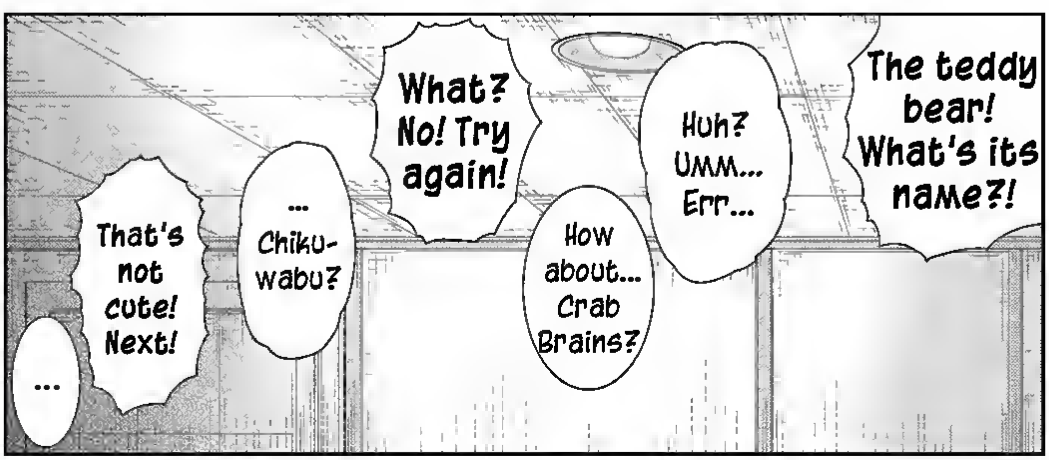
SO ON ONE OF THESE PEACEFUL DAYS...
BECKONING
ちょいちょい
Hey, Kasumi.
HM?


...
... Hmph.

じゃん
TA-DAA
Here's your present.
It's today, right? Happy birthday.

Boom
IT'S HUGE!
はっ
SNAP
NEW YORKSOUL


Huh?
...So, what's its name?
S-Sorry...
You know I'm in eighth grade, Honoka! Do you think a giant teddy bear is going to make me happy?!


...
That's not cute! Next!
...Chiku-wabu?
What? No! Try again!
How about... Crab Brains?
Huh? Umm... Err...
The teddy bear! What's its name?!

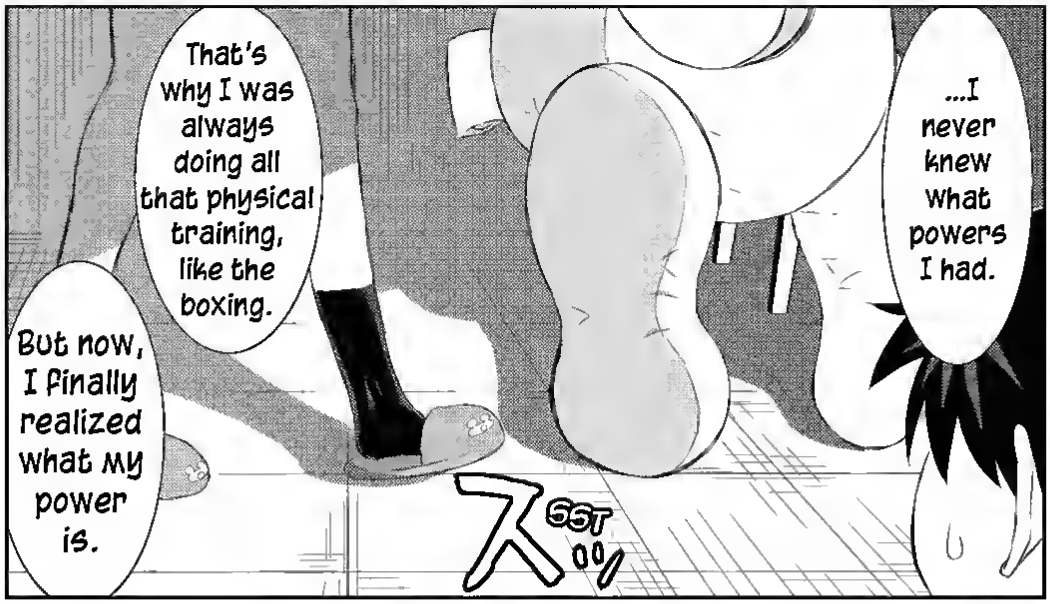
All right!
Starting today, your name is Macaron.

...
MUNCH
MUNCH

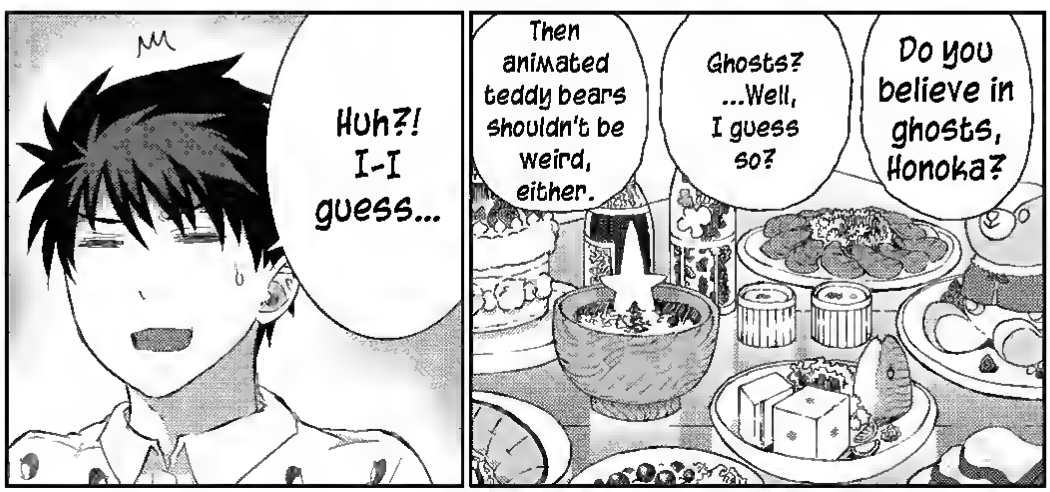
Good morning, Honoka!
THE NEXT DAY
Good morning.

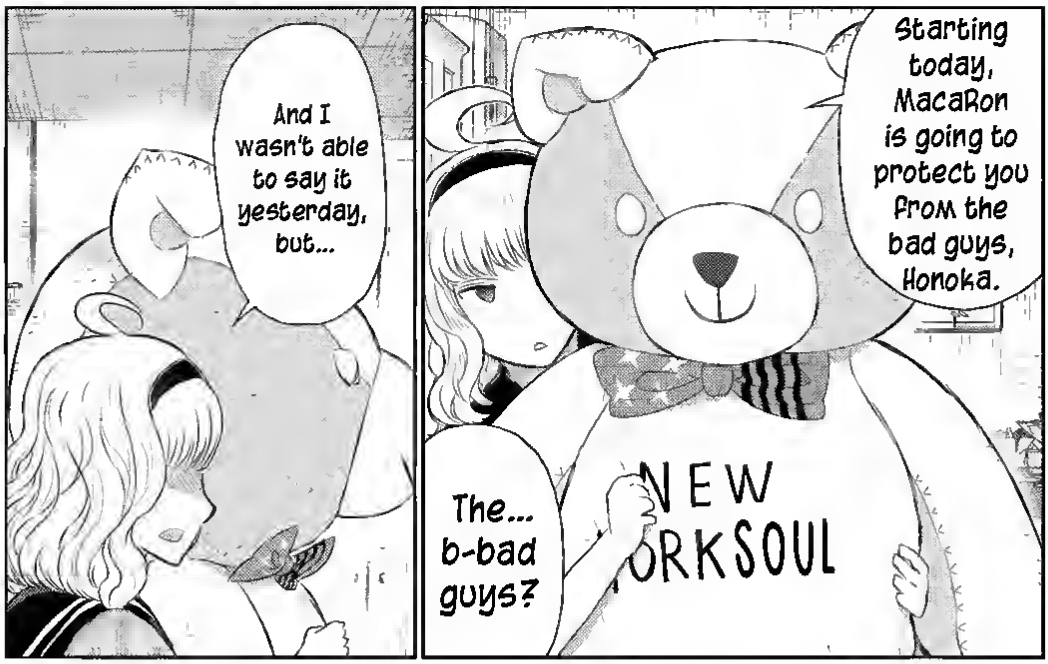
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

IT'S... MOVING ?!
Pineapple is on the second shelf.
THUNK
HUH ?!


...I never knew what powers I had.
That's why I was always doing all that physical training, like the boxing.
But now, I finally realized what my power is.
ズゴゴゴ

SQUEEZE ぎゅっ
NEW YORK SOUL
I'M just talking to myself.
Huh?
RISE


Huh?! I-I guess...
Then animated teddy bears shouldn't be weird, either.
Ghosts? ...Well, I guess so?
Do you believe in ghosts, Honoka?

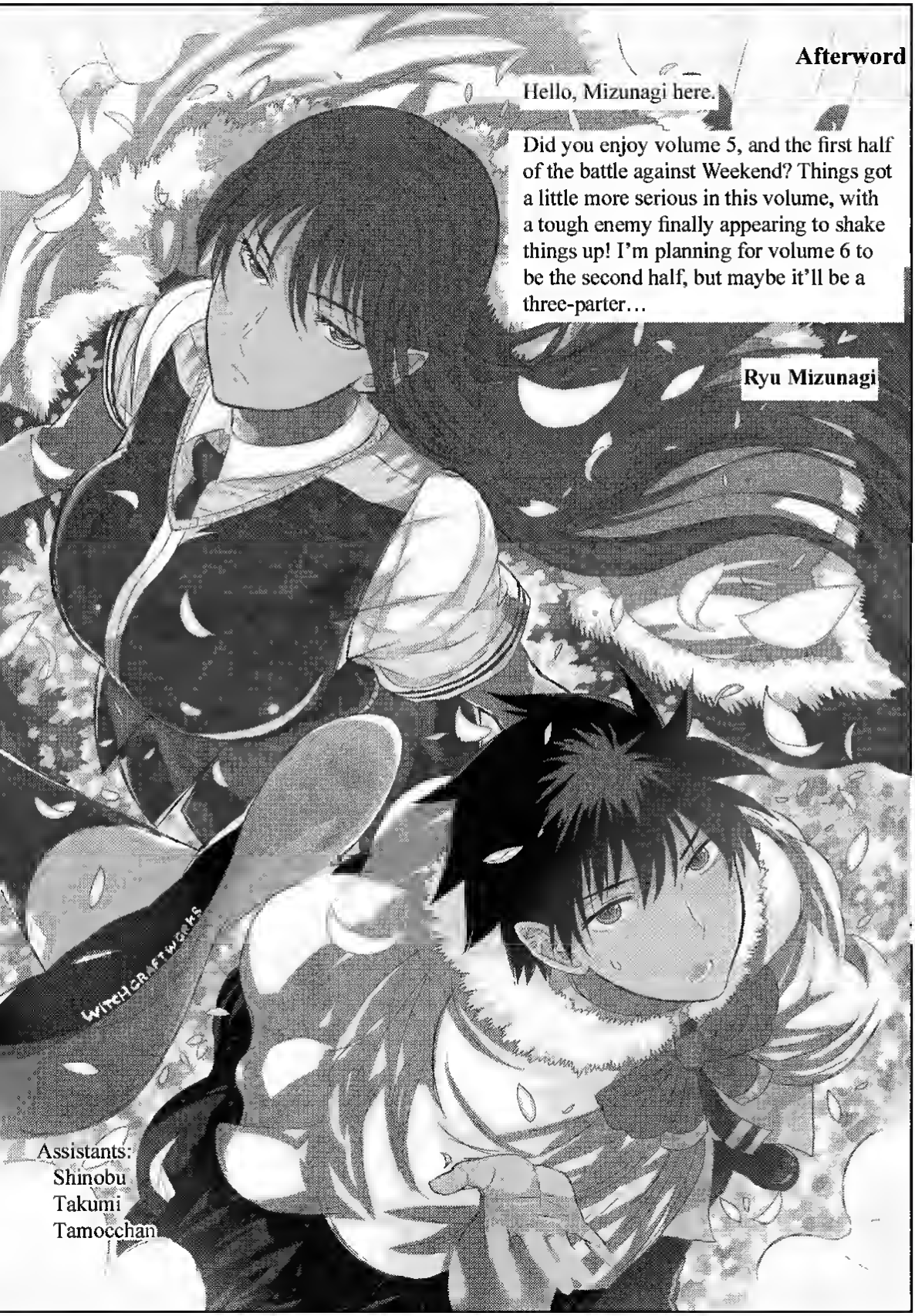

And I wasn't able to say it yesterday, but...
Starting today, MacaRon is going to protect you from the bad guys, Honoka.
The... b-bad guys?
NEW
ORKSOUL

Thanks for the gift.

END

Little Sister Theater Returns

Mommy Theater



Afterword

Hello, Mizunagi here.

Did you enjoy volume 5, and the first half of the battle against Weekend? Things got a little more serious in this volume, with a tough enemy finally appearing to shake things up! I'm planning for volume 6 to be the second half, but maybe it'll be a three-parter…

Ryu Mizunagi

Assistants:
Shinobu
Takumi
Tamocchan

Witchcraft Works

ANOTHER NIGHTLY PRESENTATION OF KANNA'S LATEST TITLES

Witchcraft Works

SETTING + SECRETS

These pages are a collection of behind-the-scenes character and story elements that probably won't affect or appear in the main story, as well as comments by the author. If you finish reading the story and think, "I want to know more!" then we hope you enjoy the information here.

Chapter 17: Takamiya and the Witch of the End

The introductory act of the battle against Weekend.

• Takamiya and Kagari
When Kagari calls the clothes she wears during the shopping trip "showy," one could reasonably get the idea that she's somewhat old-fashioned.

• Kasumi
Notice the "Silent Treatment" design on the back of her shirt.

• Miss Weekend
A Tower Witch. She is one of the witches the Workshop has labeled the "Witches of the End." "Weekend" is a nickname, not her real name.
As a witch who specializes in explosives, she installs and activates an explosive magic square capable of destroying the entire city. (The detonator is a different witch who has made a blood pact and is in a separate location with instructions to set off the explosion at 10 AM.) This plan successfully allows her to take out Kazane.

★ The title of "Witch of the End"
Various titles are given to witches, such as those for defeating a large number of enemies or for exceeding a certain level of ability.
The title of "Witch of the End" is given to witches who deserve to be shunned, as their mere existence brings the world close to destruction. It is earned by fulfilling a number of conditions, such as living for a certain number of years and possessing magical powers beyond a certain level.

Once a witch exceeds a certain level of power, she rises to the rank of "Great Witch," and must go to a higher realm where she cannot interfere with reality. However, Witches of the End have refused to do this, and continue to exist in the regular world.
It is said that Witches of the End deserve to be shunned because, in general, they have some sort of reason that they are still tied to the real world, and these reasons generally bring about negative consequences. Therefore, the term is also used as an insult.

Incidentally, as Kazane is also known as "Miss Bad End," she too falls into this category.

Chapter 18-21: Takamiya and the Fight Against Weekend

• Takamiya
Takamiya's Firecraft can turn all to ash, then give it life anew.
This "Craftwork" magic was put together and is embodied by Evermillion, the ruler of the elemental magic of fire. Craftworks are powerful elemental spells that form the basis of all magic.

Other Craftworks that have appeared so far include Medusa's Earthcraft, which uses the elemental magic of earth. However, its true power could not be used by Medusa because her hands and eyes, which are essential to the spell, were bound.

• Kagari
Kagari holds her hand out when Rinon attacks in an attempt to shoot flames. However, she is unable to, and is defeated. Her inability to use magic makes her realize what's going on.
She then escapes from the deep underground cell and takes Takamiya to the place where the contract with the town is made. Kagari's strength even without magic is the result of Kazane's training.

• Kasumi
A possible successor (and alternate) for the five witches who protect Tougetsu city.
Rinon is her master, which is why their fighting styles are similar.

• Natsume Mikage
One of the five witches who protect Tougetsu city. The leader of the five, but

somewhat unreliable. Wears black-rimmed glasses and black gloves on both hands.

★ Calls Mister Mikage "Kyouichiro," which suggests a close relationship between the two.

★ The tranquilizer gun she received from the Chairwoman allows her to successfully capture Kagari and Takamiya, but she immediately gets knocked out by Kagari's headbutt. She possesses fairly low fighting abilities.

★ Natsume's strengths are analysis and disassembly, and she carries tools for these purposes with her. In the battle against Weekend, she makes eye contact with Rinon to confirm their plan of her disenchanting all of the bombs just as Rinon beats up their enemy. She and Rinon make a good pair.

• Rinon Otometachibana
One of the five witches who protect Tougetsu city, she is the de facto leader of the group.
Rarely goes to school unless there's an emergency, though, so in that sense, perhaps Natsume is more suited for the role.

★ Uses magic known as "Steel Coating" that allows her to cover part (or all) of her body with steel. As this magic becomes more effective the stronger her body is, most of her training is physical in nature.
While she can turn her fists and abdomen, both of which she frequently uses in battle, into steel almost instantly, turning her entire body into steel takes time. If she was able to turn her body into steel instantaneously, she may have been able to withstand Weekend's explosives.

★ She was trained as a fighter by Kasane, so in battle exterminating her enemies always is of the highest priority.

• Kuramine Atori
One of the five witches who protect Tougetsu city. A silent furry-ear.
Carries Aroundight, a large sword, and the "Abacus Blade," a large, iron abacus.

• Touko
One of the five witches who protect Tougetsu city. A non-combatant member of the team, responsible for chores and odd jobs.
Comes from a long line of witches who were once storied, respected ice

researchers, but recently fell from grace due to various circumstances, only to be saved by the Kagari family. Lives in a small cabin detached from the Kagari home with her parents and 11 little sisters.
All throughout middle school, Touko was responsible for taking care of Kagari at the behest of her family. Her parents were delighted to learn of this, and told her, "Now we can repay the debt we owe to the Kagari clan. You should consider this chance to serve them as a dream come true!"
She is extremely poor, and works part-time jobs every day in order to support her family.

• Chronoire Schwarz VI
Pineal glands of powerful witches are her favorite food. Doesn't mind at all that she was used by Weekend, and has become interested in her after she defeats Kazane.

• Miss Weekend
I created this character because I wanted a villain who was memorable, for better or for worse.
I planned to wrap her story up during volume 5, but by the time I realized it, the volume only covered the first part of her story... In fact, this is only day one of an entire week.
Blonde. Wears a red robe around her body and a somewhat troubled, sarcastic smile on her face.
Garrulous, and tends to talk a lot when given the chance.
As she says herself, Weekend isn't a very physically strong witch.

• Gibraltar
One of Weekend's underlings, and a golem-using earth witch.
Gibraltar lies in wait for Kagari and Honoka on the path to the place where the contract with the city is made.

★ The contract with the town
When people gather in a location and stay there for a number of years, a collective consciousness is manifested that works to protect the town in the shape of a giant tree.
This tree is nourished by the people's consciousness, so it grows larger when more people are present, and withers when people leave.
It is said that Workshop Witches first came about when workshops were created in locations where these trees grew in order to protect them and keep them from being used for evil.

♦ Throughout the ages, the head witch of the Workshop has been obligated to form a contract with the tree.
This forms a barrier around the entire town, guarding its regular citizens in exchange for her magical power.
However, due to the power being drawn by the town, run-of-the-mill witches cannot make this contract. Only highly-trained witches with large stores of magical power are able to take this punishing yet prestigious position. This system is used against the town in chapter 17, allowing Weekend to defeat Kazane by sapping all of her magic at once.

♦ As the head Workshop Witch must fulfill the contract without interruption for 24 hours a day, she cannot leave the town.
However, as Kagari says, this is now an "old custom." The world (for witches) has become a peaceful one, therefore not all towns maintain contracts.
This is in part because as the world has become more convenient, science has largely replaced magic, lowering the overall quality of witches, and thus reducing the number of powerful ones able to supply towns with magic 24 hours a day.

♦ The number of towns that have reduced the burden on the contracted witch by doing things such as ignoring minor magical damage (the contract only activates when someone's life is in danger) or only having the contract be active at night has increased.
This is especially true in towns where magic poses little threat.

On the other hand, towns where magic does pose a threat (such as the town where Medusa is sealed) have properly-functioning contracts.
Kazane has made a full contract with the city of Tougetsu in order to protect Takamiya.

Additionally, because Kazane has been labeled a "Witch of the End," she was shunned by the witches at the top of the Workshop hierarchy, making it difficult for her to become head of the Tougetsu city Workshop.

♦ When a destructive act of magic takes place, the town protects regular citizens (non-witches), restores damaged buildings, and alters memories so that "nothing happened."
This "protection" does not necessarily mean that individuals are kept from being injured, as they most often are healed with magic after they are hurt.

When Kagari blows regular people up in chapter 6 or raises body temperatures in chapter 14, this healing magic immediately activates to heal them.
In chapter 6, it's explained that Kazane later scolded Kagari. Similarly, after the incident in chapter 14, Kazane raked Kagari over the coals, causing her to stop using magic against regular students.
Of course, that's also around the time she started physical training, so it's more like her attacks just changed from magical to physical ones...

♦ Memories cannot be immediately erased.
As seen in chapter 7, when news of Kasumi destroying the town is shown on television, there is somewhat of a time lag. When this happens, injured citizens are sheltered in a safe location after their wounds are healed, and their memories are later altered as damaged buildings are being restored.
When extreme damage is dealt to buildings and no shelter can be found, such as in the current fight with Weekend, citizens are evacuated to a special barrier where they are kept until the town's buildings are restored.

★ Bonus
The chapter 17 bonus title is a parody of the 80's J-Drama "The Housekeeper Saw".

Witchcract Works, volume 5

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Production: Risa Cho
Melissa DeJesus